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THE MAGIC AND THE MADNESS OF THE 67th PARLE FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2022 WITH KAMAR FILM FACTORY

WILD AT HEART

VARUN DHAWAN UNLEASHES HIS NEVER-SEEN-BEFORE SIDE

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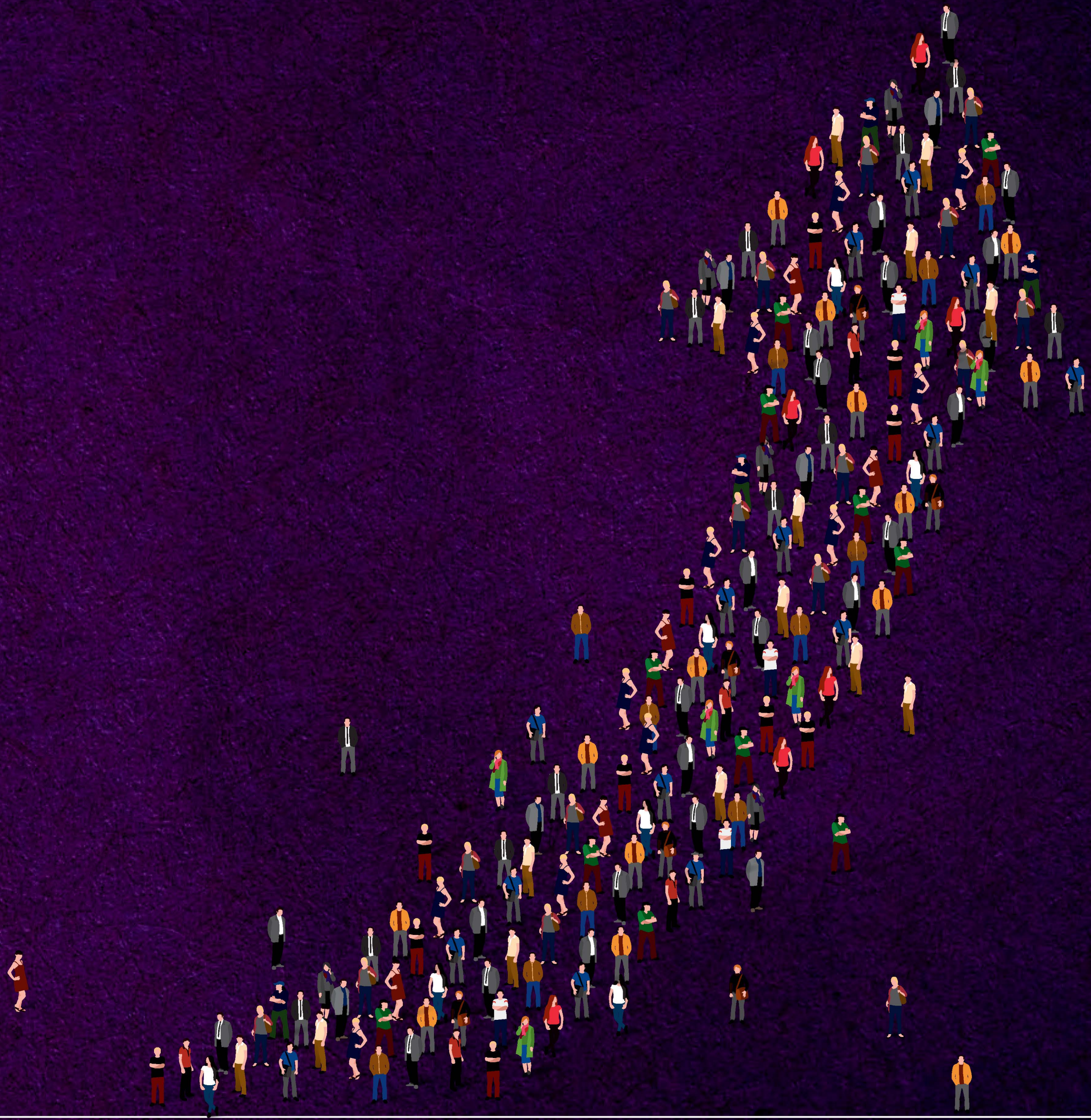

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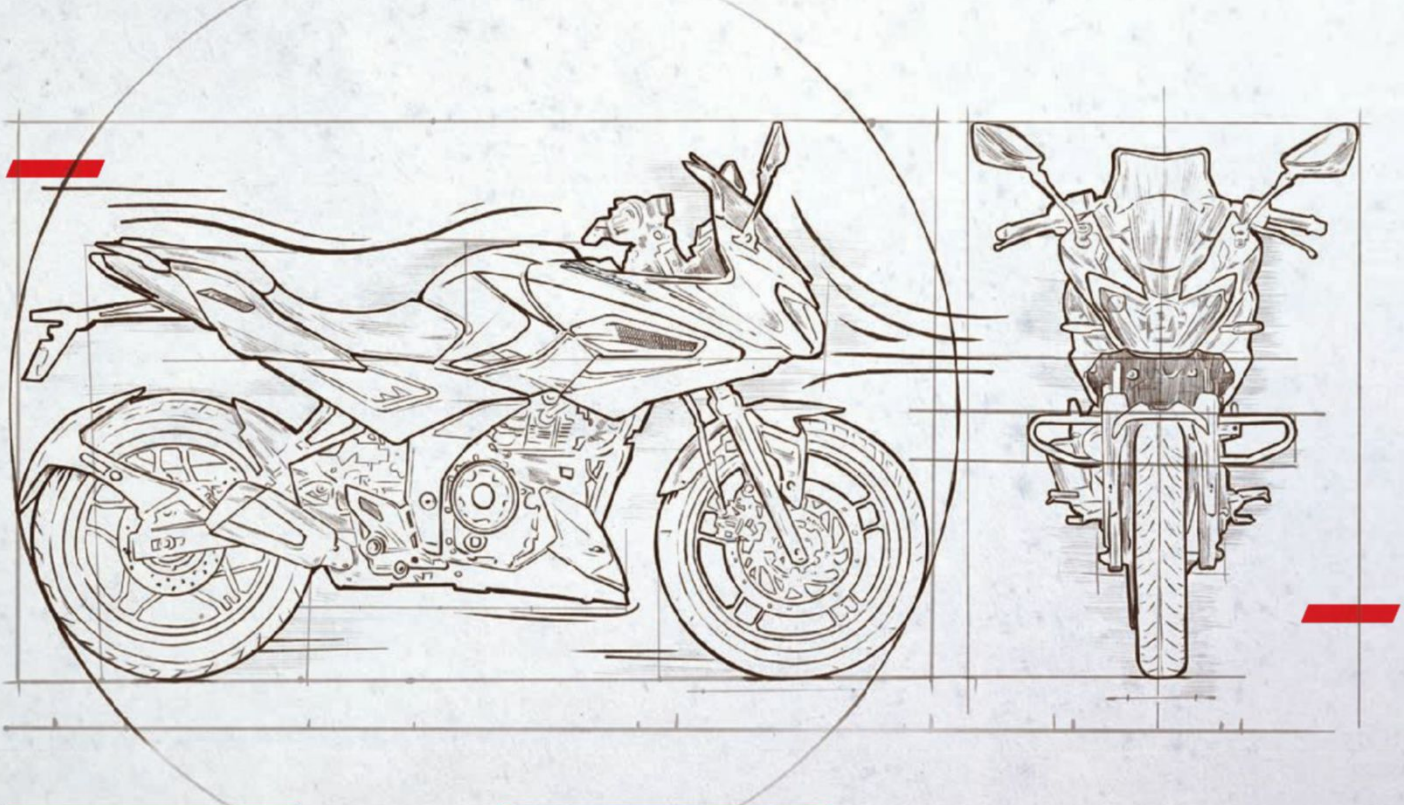
BUILT LIKE A BEAST.

With its sharp aesthetics, striking details and aerodynamic design, the all-new Pulsar 250 is definitely a head turner. Engineered to thrill, it commands attention on the road. Every single feature is thought-through to get your adrenaline rushing. No matter if you're the rider, pillion or a pedestrian.

THE CHASSIS

The all-new Pulsar 250 comes with a new split steel tubular frame – a perfect hybrid of double-cradle frames and perimeter frame. The new frame places the engine as the main member in the setup, keeping its weight in check.



SUSPENSION SETUP

The suspension setup of the new Pulsar 250 is plush and does a fabulous job at soaking up bumps and nasty potholes, without unsettling the bike or the rider. It also does a good job of carving up corners. The bike is agile and tips easily into corners. You'll also realise that the bike is set-up on a 37mm telescopic front fork, with an all-new monoshock, with Nitrox at the rear.

AERODYNAMIC DESIGN

The features of the new Pulsar 250 boasts of an aerodynamic front-end, designed using the coveted CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) technology. The design is based on Bajaj's latest Sculptural Purity design philosophy. It is contoured in such a way that the small windscreen, wing mirrors and the overall front-nose reduces the windblast. Giving the bike a menacing butch look while enhancing beast-like superior performance.

LED HEADLIGHTS

The aggressive front fascia with a Projector Unipod Headlamp and sleek eyebrow-like DRLs is the new Pulsar 250's USPs. It also comes with a Projector Unipod

LOOKS LIKE A BEAUTY

Headlamp and reverse-boomerang DRLs. The dual beam ensures that it floods the road ahead of you, in a pure streetfighter styling, offering a sharp, suave look on the front.

THE BLACK BEAUTY

The all-black scheme comes in a special paint with a play of contrasting finishes. Its unique combination of gloss and matte high sparkle paint sports slivers of reds and silvers. Also, the black chrome branding, blacked out alloys, exhaust and engine casing are designed to give the latest Pulsar 250 a mean look.

CONSOLE

The all-new Pulsar 250 comes with an Infinity Display, a digital display with the Badge of Thrill – an analog tachometer needle. It not only gives a clear reading, but also has striking aesthetics. The timeless tachometer needle, which is the coveted Badge of Thrill, acts as a nod to the golden age of high-performance motorcycling. Apart from this, it also offers multiple read-outs and a USB mobile charging port.

In conclusion, the new Pulsar 250 has been designed to give goosebumps even to the most seasoned rider. With exponentially better dynamics and details, it is a bike that outperforms everywhere – while you maneuver through the city-maze as well on the highway. With a perfect combination of aesthetics and the ground-up design, the all-new Pulsar 250 is truly an appealing package for those who seek the best of both worlds, in a truly thrilling Pulsar style!

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T&C*

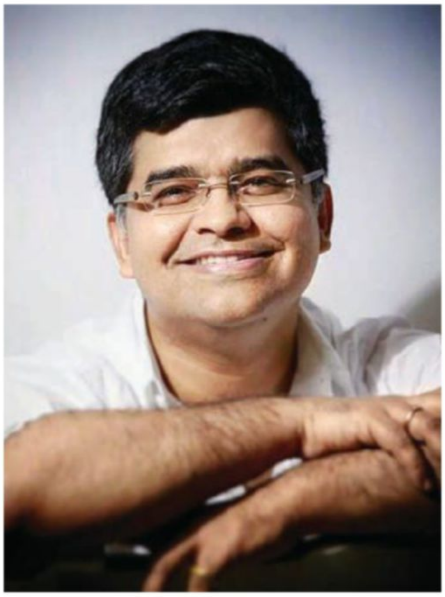
Letter from the Editor

The graduate

Varun Dhawan was one of the students launched by Karan Johar in 2012 with *Student Of The Year* (2012). It was a Karan Johar romance which didn't have Shah Rukh Khan in it. It was a departure of norm of sorts for the director, and proved that he doesn't rely on star power alone to deliver a hit. All three, Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt and Varun himself went on to become stars in their own right. Varun was judged as the complete commercial package and lived up to his promise. His first three releases post his debut, *Main Tera Hero* (2014), *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania* (2014) and *Badlapur* (2015), proved to be humongous hits. While the first two were purely commercial ventures, the third made the masses sit up and take notice of his acting chops. He was well-liked for his dark, dark role – that of a man obsessed with revenge. Other films, like *ABCD2* and *Dilwale,* released in 2015, also did well and the industry thought that perhaps another superstar is being born. The success of films like *Badrinath Ki Dulhania* (2017) and *Judwaa 2* (2017) further cemented his position.

Then, the slump came with films like *Kalank* (2019), *Street Dancer 3D* (2020) and *Coolie No 1* (2020) – all big budget projects just didn't perform the way they were expected. The coronavirus pandemic and the resultant lockdown stalled everyone's progress in the industry and even Varun wasn't immune to its effect. He didn't let the lows get to him and concentrated on getting his personal life on track. He got married to longtime girlfriend Natasha Dalal in January 2021 in an intimate ceremony. Marriage proved lucky for him as his first release of 2022, *Jugjugg Jeeyo,* passed the box office test with flying colours. The film was a family drama centred around relationships and marked the comeback of Neetu Kapoor to the big screen after the death of her husband Rishi Kapoor. Varun's scenes with Anil Kapoor, who played his on-screen father, were praised by the critics. Varun is venturing into a new territory, that of the horror comedy, with his forthcoming release *Bhediya*. He's not done a film with supernatural elements before and the viewers can definitely expect something new from this Amar Kaushik directorial, which was shot primarily in the jungles of Arunachal Pradesh. The film involves lots of creature effects and Varun is excited to explore a new field. He talks about that, about career choices, marriage and spirituality in our candid cover story. Also turn the pages to feast on some *hatke* photos of him which we shot in a wildlife sanctuary.

For more on tinseltown's news and updates
find me on Twitter @jiteshpillaai



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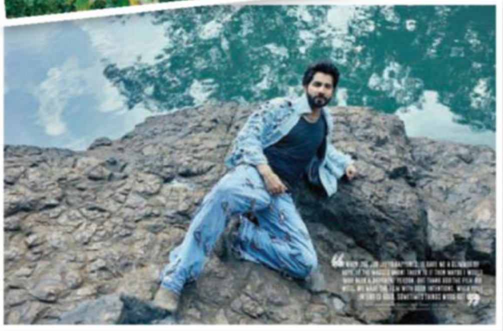

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VARUN DHAWAN UNLEASHES HIS NEVER-SEEN-BEFORE SIDE

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Jacket & Shorts: Kanika Goyal
T-shirt: Aroka | Boots: Kavith Sainaani
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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RNI No. 1619/1957. Price Rs 60. Printed and published by Sunil Dad for and on behalf of owners Worldwide Media Pvt. Ltd, (CIN: U22120MH2003PTC142239), The Times of India Building, Dr D N Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 and printed at Rajhans Enterprises No: 134, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560044, India. Processed by BCCL Production Prepress and published at Worldwide Media Pvt. Ltd, The Times of India Building, Dr D N Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001. Editor: Jitesh Pillaai

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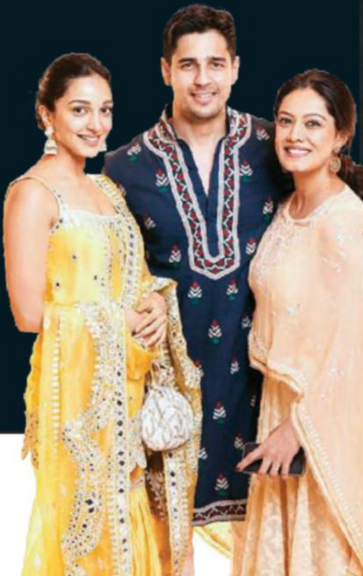
They are hot, they are cool.
Meet our trend makers and breakers

“I’M A DIRECTOR’S COSTUME DESIGNER, IF I FEEL THAT I CAN HELP ENHANCE THE DIRECTOR’S VISION, I TAKE ON A FILM”

– Ace designer Eka Lakhani speaks about her Bollywood journey



ALL THAT BLING!

Sequins made a comeback this year with a bang

PAST MEETS FUTURE

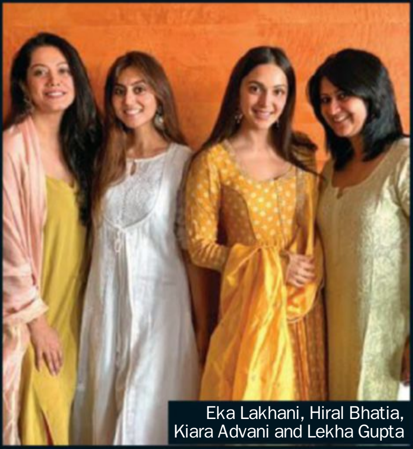
Tanisha Bhattacharya talks to **Eka Lakhani**, the designer who is making waves for her work on *Ponniyin Selvan: I*

One look at Eka Lakhani's career graph and you realise that she has been juggling with diverse genres. She's worked on films like *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, which was a family drama; *Shershaah*, a biographical war film; and most recently, *Ponniyin Selvan: I* which is a Mani Ratnam period drama about the Chola empire, demanding opulence and attention to detail. Her work in *Shershaah* was applause-worthy and she also got a Filmfare nomination for Best Costume for it. She's collaborated with ace directors such as Mani Ratnam, Karan Johar, and Rajkumar Hirani. Hence she has an innate sense of visual storytelling that seamlessly blends with the perception of the director. It's these learnings that she cherishes the most. Excerpts from an in-depth interview with the designer.

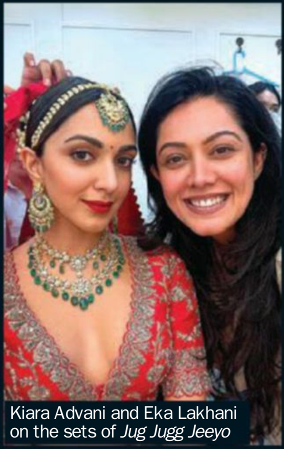
YEH DIL MAANGE MORE
YEH DIL MAANGE MORE

→ Sidharth Malhotra and Eka Lakhani

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra in *Shershaah*



Eka Lakhani, Hiral Bhatia, Kiara Advani and Lekha Gupta



Kiara Advani and Eka Lakhani on the sets of *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*

I WAS WORKING IN *RAAVAN* (2010) AS AN INTERN WHEN SANTOSH SIVAN SIR AND MANI RATNAM SIR, NOTICED MY WORK AND GAVE ME A BREAK IN *URUMI* (2011) AND *KADAL* (2013), RESPECTIVELY

You've worked in Bollywood and the south film industries. In that sense, you're a versatile costume designer. How do you see yourself?

I've just been lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time. I was working in *Raavan* (2010) as an intern when Santosh Sivan sir and Mani Ratnam sir, noticed my work and gave me a break in *Urumi* (2011) and *Kadal* (2013), respectively. That's how I started working in the South. It was only when my South work was noticed that I got my first project in Bollywood. I'm a director's costume designer, if I feel that I can help enhance the director's vision, I take on a film. I think it's been a beautiful journey so far.

Was costume designing always the plan?

No, costume design was never the plan. Neither was fashion. When I was in college, I took up science because I had the percentage to get into a science college. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. And this was the time when my dad took me to NID. And he said, "Eka, I see you doing something in art, something in fashion." And I was like, "Why is my dad saying this?" Two years into science, I came to him and I said, "Dad, you were right. I want to study art and I want to study fashion." So I shifted to SNDT Women's University, Mumbai for three years, and then spent a year at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City. After finishing college, I got a call saying that Sabyasachi Mukherjee was looking for an assistant in a Mani Ratnam film with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan. That's how I reached the sets of *Raavan*. It's there that I realised I had a rooted love for fashion.

How would you say Bollywood fashion has evolved and what is your favourite trend right now?

Bollywood has opened up a lot more now. We see all sorts of fashion being accepted. My favourite trend right now would be oversized clothing. Ever since the pandemic hit us, oversized clothing has just become second skin for me. It's comfortable. It looks great.

What was your experience like working with actresses like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Kiara Advani, Anushka Sharma, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Kiara wants to try new things. She's beautiful. She carries everything so well. Aishwarya ma'am loves her classic style. She's the epitome of beauty. Anushka wants her comfort but at the same time, she wants a statement. Priyanka is a diva. She's gorgeous. She likes her outfits to have a lot of style and grace.

You are a go-to stylist for Karan Johar and Ranveer Singh as well.

I look forward to getting Karan and Ranveer ready each day. It is so much fun. They understand fashion probably more than I do. I've said this before but the biggest challenge for me to style Karan is to show him something he hasn't seen before. As for Ranveer, he is a magical boy. He's like a canvas. You can paint anything on him. You can make him wear anything. He carries everything so well. And he's always been someone in India who, in terms of men's fashion, makes the norms, he breaks the norms. He tops every chart when it comes to fashion for men in India.

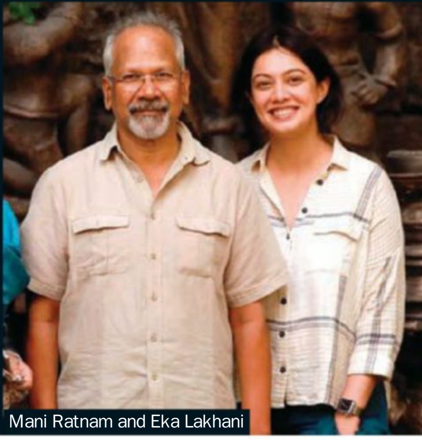
You've worked with the biggest filmmakers, from Mani Ratnam to Raju Hirani to Karan Johar. How would you define the differences in their working styles?

I feel blessed and grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with Mani sir, Raju sir, and Karan. It's because of Mani sir, that I realised that I wanted to be a costume designer. To keep things real, not get influenced by what is in trend, and be true to the spirit of the film – all these things I've learnt from Mani sir. When it comes to Raju sir, his manner of approach is different. He wants the audience to connect with

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in *Ponniyin Selvan: I*

Kiara Advani and Varun Dhawan in *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*

BOLLYWOOD HAS OPENED UP A LOT MORE NOW. WE SEE ALL SORTS OF FASHION BEING ACCEPTED. MY FAVOURITE TREND RIGHT NOW WOULD BE OVERSIZED CLOTHING


Mani Ratnam and Eka Lakhani

← Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra and Eka Lakhani

the character in the first shot itself. If you see his films, whether it's *Sanju*, or *Munna Bhai* series, he has a simple and a clear-cut way of presenting his characters. Karan wants to wow the audience. He wants to give them something new. He loves fashion. He's amazing with clothes, with beauty, with brands. That's his narrative. He likes to wow the audience with every frame.

Share some insights on the research that had to be done for *PS: I*.

Mani sir first sent me the novels. I've read two parts of the novels. And then I went to Thanjavur, where Mani sir wanted me to just see the temples, the art all around, meet weavers, talk to them, and understand the world that I was getting into. He sent Jay Kumar, who was one of my research guides and helped me understand the motifs I was seeing. We had a group of historians and researchers who helped us at every stage. I decided that we are going to use only silks and kanjivarams, and we won't use surface ornamentation like embroidery too much. We reduced that and let the silks and the real zari, gold and the jewellery speak volumes. So that we'd be true to the culture. We didn't want to just make things look grand.

Was it intimidating to design for such a magnum opus where era authenticity is essential? Also there was Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to top it all off?

Eka Lakhani and Kiara Advani

> **I DON'T FEEL THAT I FACE CHALLENGES AS A COSTUME DESIGNER FOR DIFFERENT GENRES, I JUST FEEL THAT WHATEVER GENRE I'M DOING, I TRY TO GIVE IT THE TRUE REPRESENTATION OF IT**

Varun Dhawan, Eka Lakhani and Raj Mehta

There was a lot of pressure on me because this world was new to me, being from Mumbai. I had a lot more to learn, a lot more to understand. I wanted to make sure that the representation of the culture never went wrong. Especially when you're working with Aish ma'am. I started working with her as an intern, and to come back and work with her as a costume designer was an honour indeed. I was pressured but I think it's been a good ride.

Fashion is a cyclic process—while doing your research for *PS: I*, did you come across fashion trends from that era that have come back into the modern landscape?

For *PS: I*, what we studied was the beginning of fashion. That was when the cloth was introduced. Dyes started being made during that time. This is the era when the trade route was just starting. In the beginning, when I was making costumes, instead of using dyes, we used kitchen ingredients like *haldi* and *kumkum*. We just mixed them with hot boiling water and dipped the fabric. We saw the effect that it had on the fabric. Of course, we couldn't do it on a large scale. So we'd used dyes, natural dyes and vegetable dyes. We tried to get the result that we got from using the kitchen ingredients in a lot of costumes. Even in terms of makeup. We saw what a beet stain did instead of using a makeup stain, what the hairstyles would bring in, and so on.

***Shershaah* was a patriotic film, then you did *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, which is a complete family entertainer. What challenges do you feel as a designer when you switch genres?**

When I was doing *Shershaah*, I just wanted it to be an authentic representation of our army. I didn't want to do anything wrong because I have read articles where uniforms are represented in the wrong way. I don't feel that I face challenges as a costume designer for different genres, I just feel that whatever genre I'm doing, I try to represent it correctly. *Jug Jug Jeeyo* was a complete riot for me. The cast we had was fun. The clothes we used were fun. Do you want the audience to be surprised, or do you want them to be able to relate to you? Whichever genre you are doing, you ask these questions and then you plan according to the answers you get.

Which character has been your favourite to design for so far?

Surprisingly, both my favourite characters to design for are from Mani sir's films. Tara from *Ok Kanmani* and then *OK Jaanu*. I'd say Nithya Menen was my favourite character in *Ok Kanmani*. And after that, Aditi Rao Hydari from *Kaatru Veliyidai*. These two have been my favourite characters. And I've gotten good feedback from the audiences and from Mani sir himself as well. ■

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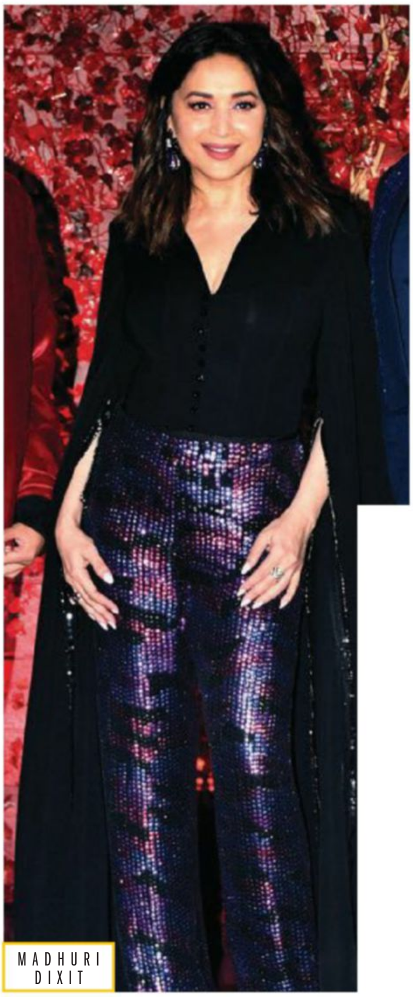
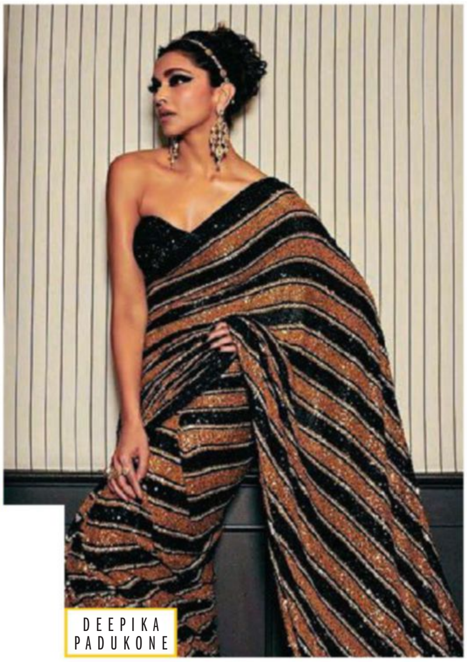

MADHURI DIXIT

KAJOL


DEEPIKA PADUKONE

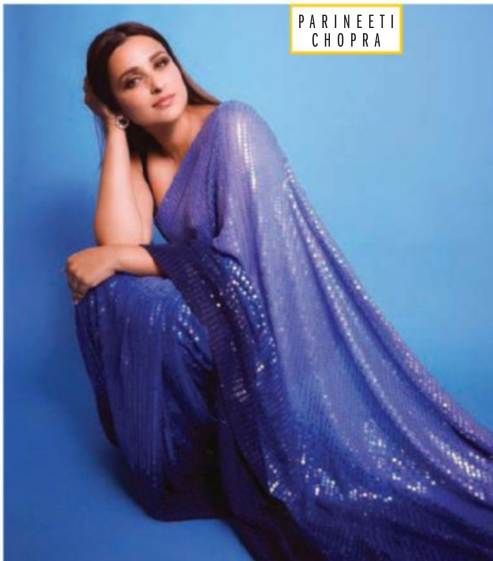
RETURN OF THE SEQUINS

Sequins are back with their bling factor....

Leave a little sparkle everywhere you go, they say. The sequin fashion trend that made a comeback in Summer 2022 sums up that feeling completely. The Y2K era was replete with the glint of sequins, which was termed as the disco era by esteemed designers. Off late, a slew of tinsel town divas have been rocking it at various occasions. From ombre hues to solid colours, pastels to darker tints, this shimmer leads itself to all. This year Deepika Padukone aced the shimmer look in her gold and black saree at the Cannes 2022 Film Festival. Madhuri Dixit too upped the ante with a chic co-ords set featuring a black crop top and multi shaded flared pants. Looks like, the fashionistas seem to have got the memo that the runway is hot and happening with all things bold and bling.

This year Deepika Padukone aced the shimmer look in her gold and black saree at the Cannes 2022 Film Festival

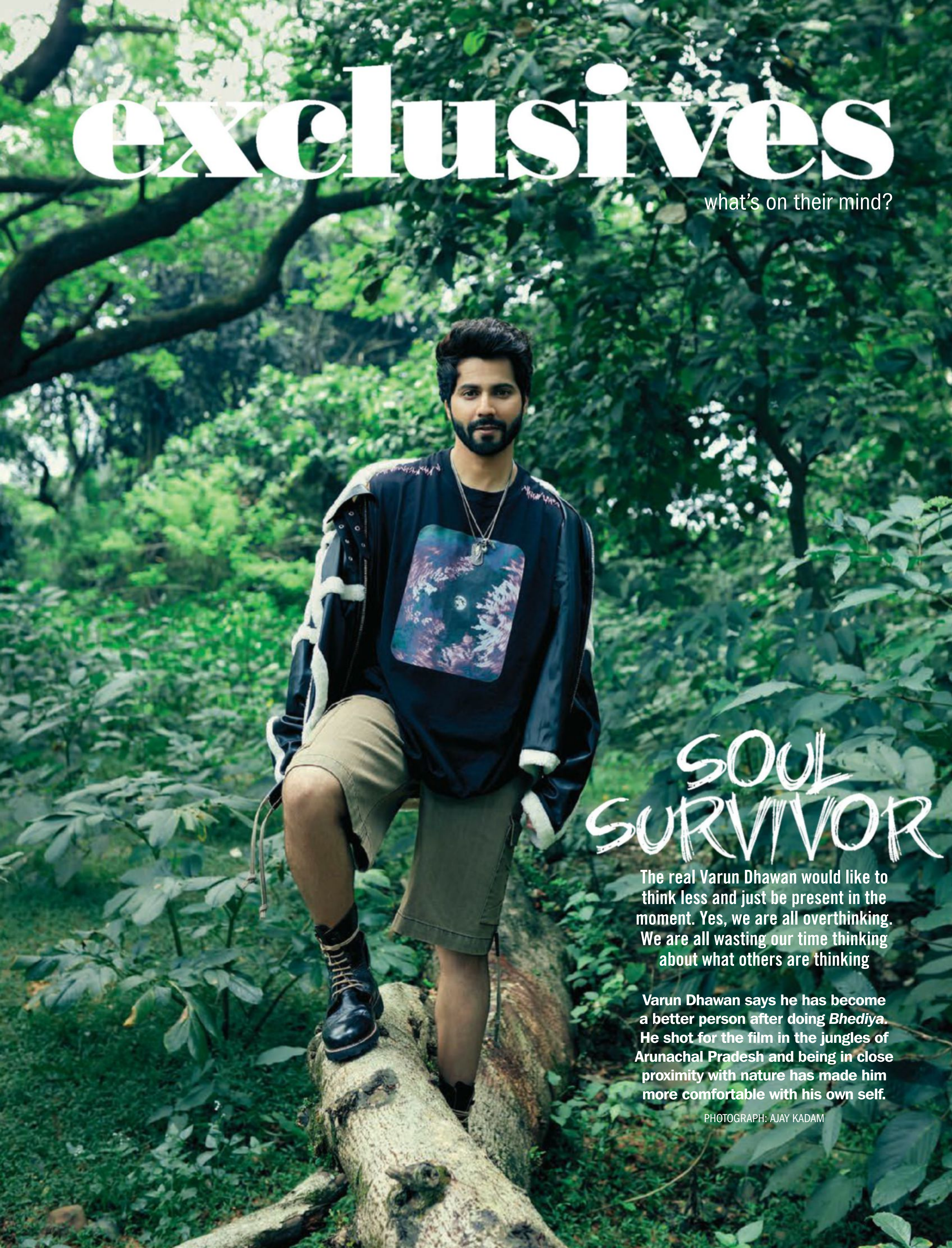
KIARA ADVANI


PARINEETI CHOPRA

ALIA BHATT

exclusives

what's on their mind?

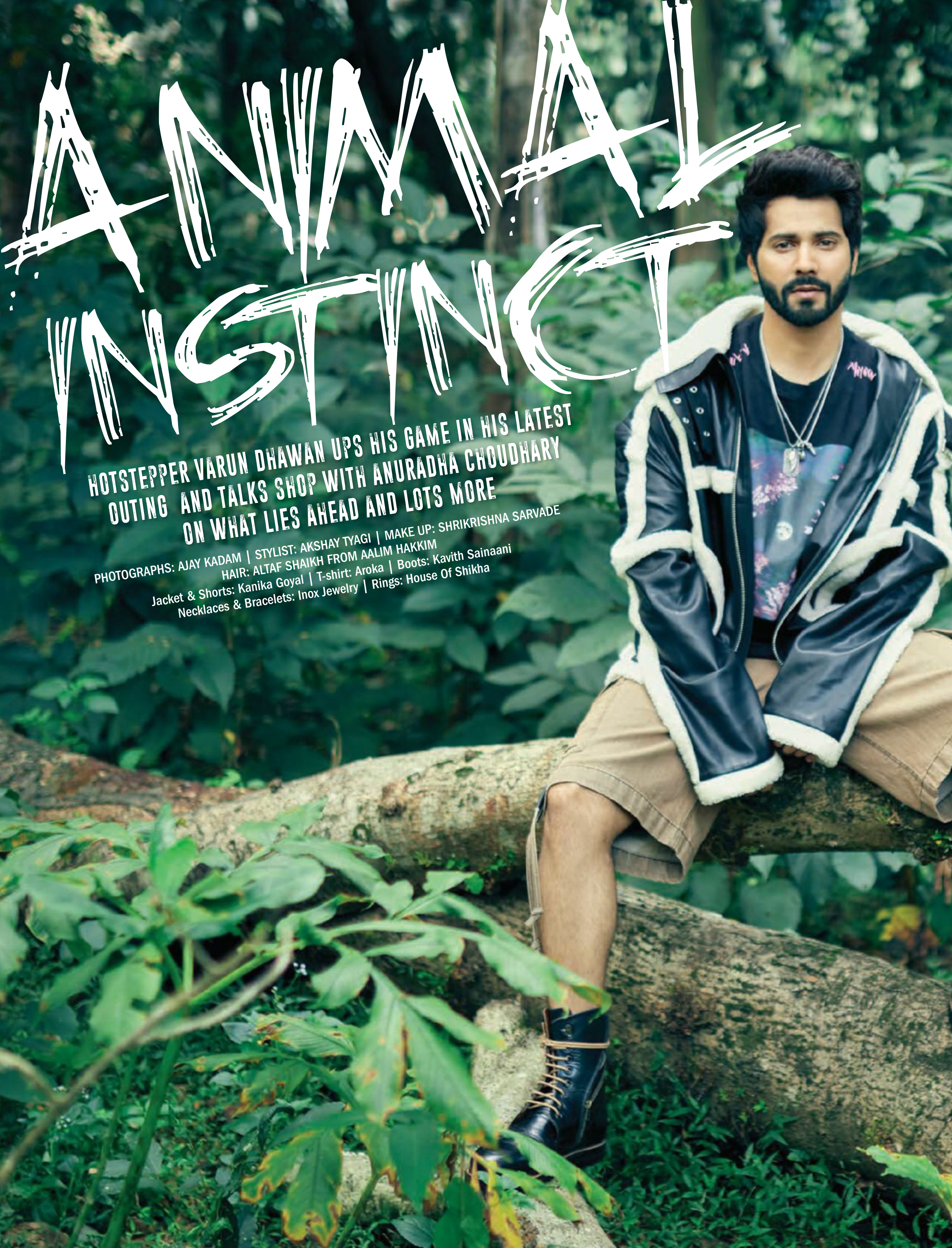


SOUL SURVIVOR

The real Varun Dhawan would like to think less and just be present in the moment. Yes, we are all overthinking. We are all wasting our time thinking about what others are thinking

Varun Dhawan says he has become a better person after doing *Bhediya*. He shot for the film in the jungles of Arunachal Pradesh and being in close proximity with nature has made him more comfortable with his own self.

PHOTOGRAPH: AJAY KADAM



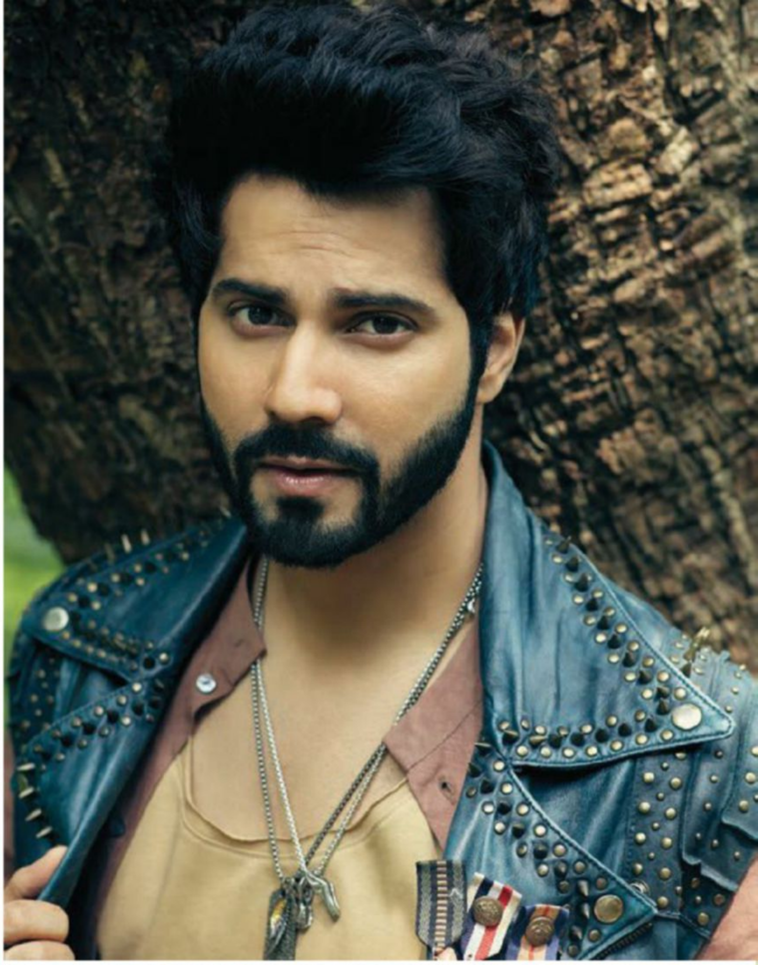
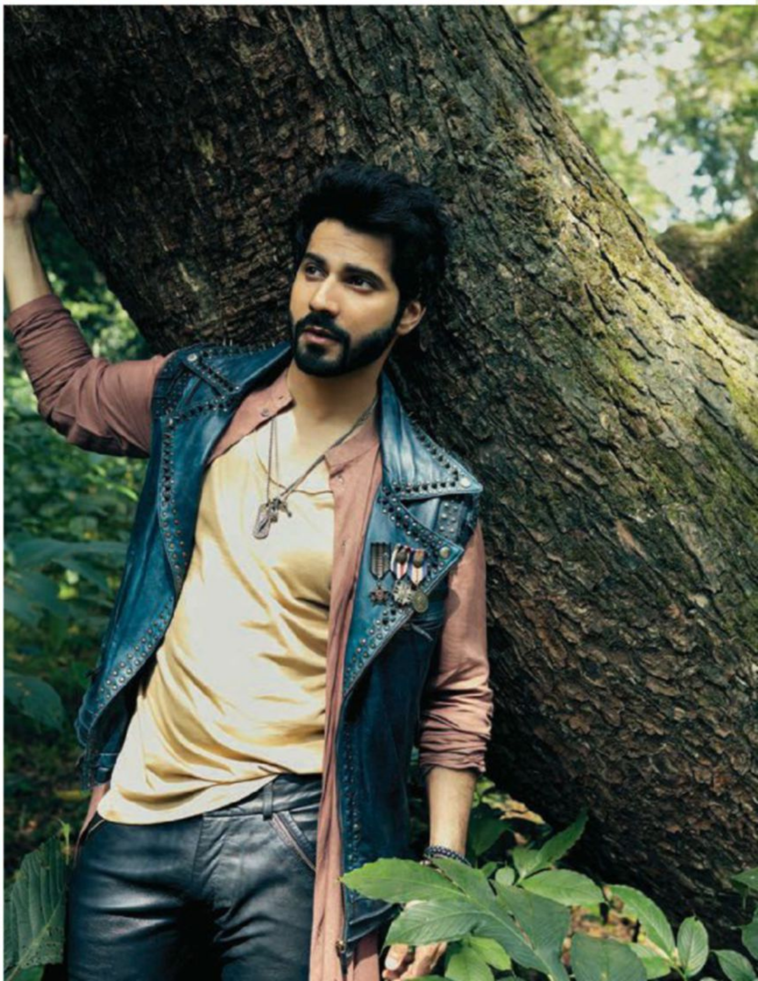
ANIMAL INSTINCT

HOTSTEPPER VARUN DHAWAN UPS HIS GAME IN HIS LATEST OUTING AND TALKS SHOP WITH ANURADHA CHOUDHARY ON WHAT LIES AHEAD AND LOTS MORE

PHOTOGRAPHS: AJAY KADAM | STYLIST: AKSHAY TYAGI | MAKE UP: SHRIKRISHNA SARVADE
HAIR: ALTAF SHAIKH FROM AALIM HAKKIM
Jacket & Shorts: Kanika Goyal | T-shirt: Aroka | Boots: Kavith Sainaani
Necklaces & Bracelets: Inox Jewelry | Rings: House Of Shikha

There's something about Varun Dhawan that's different. I can't place my finger on it, at first. Yes, he's looking rested, looking dapper, looking good. But then he's a movie star. You expect that of him. There's *therav,* for sure. But there's more. There's more to Varun Dhawan than his quintessential movie star looks. Talk to him for a few minutes and you know, there are layers to the happy-go-lucky persona that we've all come to expect of him.

So we're sitting in his living room, comfortably ensconced on the sofa. He sits on his favourite rocking chair, enjoying his omelet. While his newly-acquired beagle, Joey is happily exploring my ears. A friendly dog if I ever saw one. Just like the master. Varun Dhawan, who has *Bhediya* coming up, is in a reflective mood. Yes, he's excited about his movie. After all, he's given his all and more to the film. We do the regular movie talk and then the mood shifts. He talks about the need to back off from social media, to be less of a people pleaser, to give himself more credit for the things he's done. He talks about how he's looking within these days. Says Covid has changed everything and everyone. And then he stumps me by saying that he's taking recourse into religion. He's reading The Mahabharata and The Bhagvad Gita... Yes that's what has changed about Varun... He's thinking deeply... asking questions. He isn't dazzled anymore by decadent lifestyles or movie star appearances... There has to be more to life than that, he says. I agree. This is how the conversation flows then:

> “I ACTUALLY SAID YES TO *BHEDIYA* JUST BASED ON THE ONE LINE THAT DINU (DINESH VIJAYAN) TOLD ME ON THE PHONE. I JUST KNEW THAT AMAR (KAUSHIK) WAS GOING TO MAKE IT ABOUT A MAN GETTING BITTEN BY A WOLF”

Vest & Pants: The V Renaissance | Long Tunic: Antar-Agni | Tank: Aura - The Hub
Bracelets: Inox Jewelry, Bling Sutra, Ascend Rohank | Rings: House Of Shikha | Boots: Kavith Sainaani

TO BEGIN WITH WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO BHEDIYA?

It was the wildest script that I've ever heard. I actually said yes to the film just based on the one line that Dinu (Dinesh Vijayan) told me on the phone. I just knew that Amar (Kaushik) was going to make it about a man getting bitten by a wolf.

AND BECOMING A WEREWOLF?

I'm not going to say werewolf. *Bhediya ban jaata hai.* So that was exciting. And then the script developed and came to me after a year. I showed interest throughout the development process. I met Amar three to four times. I heard him out and got to know his thought process, things he likes and dislikes. And then the lockdown happened. And then the second lockdown happened. Just before the second lockdown, Amar was like, "Let's just start." Then I had COVID, so *Jug Jug Jeeyo* stopped. I had a lot of time on hand. So I just got into this one.

YOU RE ENTERING THIS WORLD OF HORROR, THE SUPERNATURAL... WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE FOR YOU?

It was insane. It was everything that I wanted it to be. And as an actor, I just surrendered to the director. He knew the world very well because he'd done *Stree.* So he knew the beats of the world. He knew the kind of reactions he needed. He knew the kind of things he wanted as far as the VFX of the film is concerned, prosthetics and stuff. We were all learning together. But Amar was too hands on during the process.

VFX AND PROSTHETICS CAN MAKE OR BREAK A FILM LIKE THIS.

Yes, and that was one of my concerns too. Luckily, Dinu got MPC on board; they did the VFX for *Jungle Book* and they've done loads of films that deal with animals. So then I knew we were in safe hands. But until you don't see, you don't know exactly. We also had one great supervisor, James, who'd come from London. He was working with us. I had a lot of trust and belief in him too. And so did Amar. Darrell Mclean, who was doing our action, had flown down from South Africa. These guys really worked hard to bring to the screen what Amar wanted.

YOU THINK THE INDIAN AUDIENCE WILL CONNECT WITH THE CONCEPT? WEREWOLVES AFTER ALL AREN'T PART OF OUR MYTHOLOGY.

No, but it is. We don't think it is because we don't know much about our culture. We are sitting in our ivory towers. That's why you are reacting like this. But there's a full mythology, folklore in Ziro, in Arunachal Pradesh, about Yapum. So if you go there, they'll tell you about Yapum

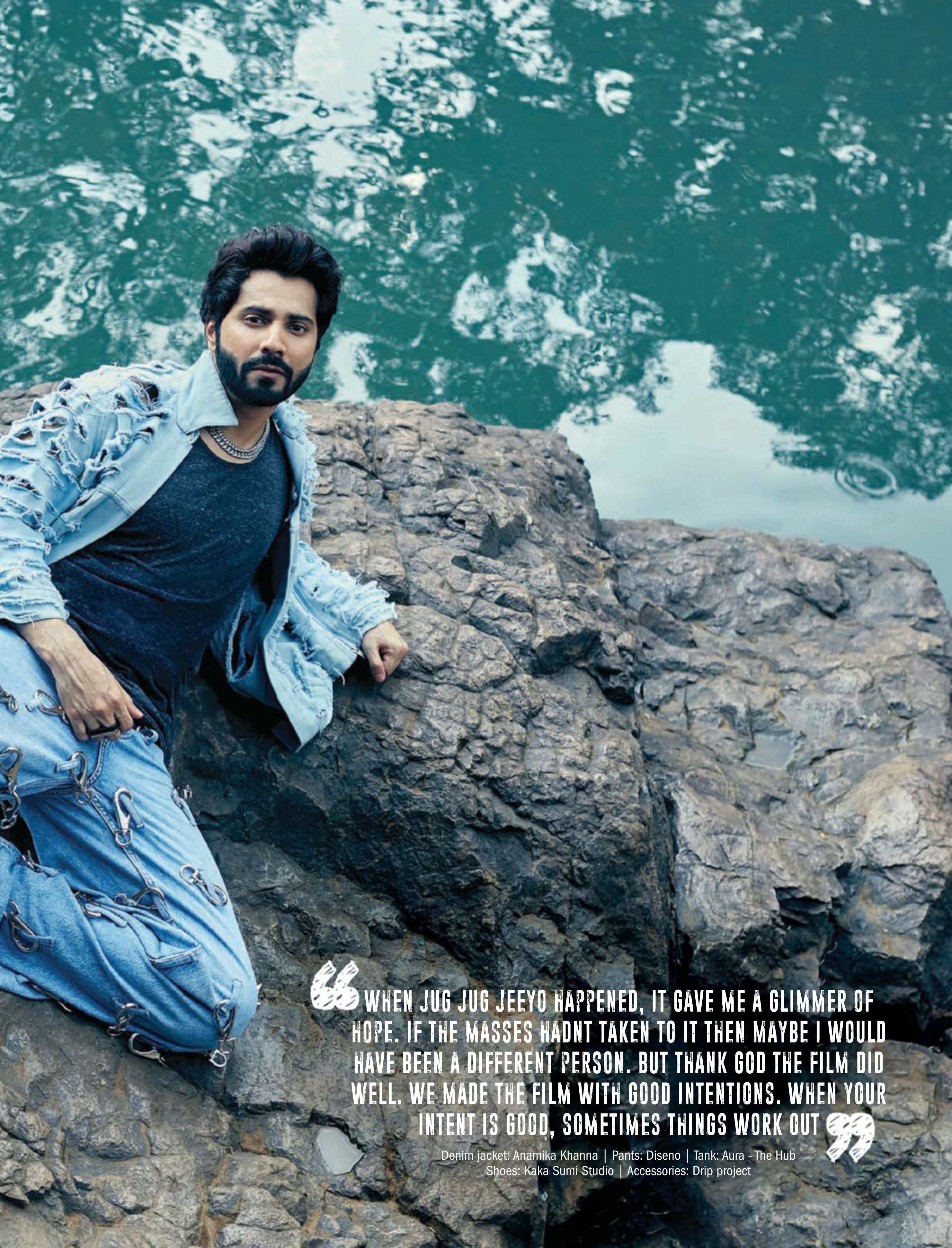
and what happens when you go into the forest. The forest is sacred to them. I don't want to tell the story, but yeah, it is born out of the mythology of our land. There are so many places in our country and so many things that we don't know. We are ignoring the village audience. Why are we not making village stories anymore? How many mythologies do they have? Amar always says, "Why should we keep talking about the West?" We are inspired by *Junoon* and *Naagin.* Why give credit to the West for everything?

YOU SHOT IN ARUNACHAL FOR THIS. WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?
Unbelievable. It was my first time there. There's no direct flight to Arunachal. You go to Guwahati or Dibrugarh, and then from there, you drive down to Ziro. It's a fourteen-hour drive. Once you get there, it's just amazing. The air you breathe is so clean. There's greenery all around. It's beautiful. We were there for two months. I liked it more than the city. All my life, I've been in the city. It was such a nice change. Anyway, it was lockdown, and there were no cases there. It was great to be there.

WHAT KIND OF PREPARATION DID YOU DO FOR THE FILM?
I worked with Devrath Vijay (Ninja Dev). He trained me completely for this. And then, towards the later half, of course, Prashant came on again. But Ninja Dev was there throughout. We did a lot of animal flow. I cut down on a lot of weight because Amar didn't want pronounced muscles on me. I had to be flexible in terms of movements, especially during the transformation scenes. So that was tiring. There was one scene where I did like 42 takes. That was the most tiring day of my life. My vocal cords were strained after screaming so much. Then I also worked a lot on my speech, on how Amar wanted the lines to be delivered. Since it was the lockdown, we had ample time. So every day I was just preparing, reading the script with him, and spending a lot of time with Abhishek Banerjee also. I bonded a lot with him. Interestingly, Amar doesn't say "action," he says *"Khelo."* and he always plays music before you start acting.

> “THERE WAS ONE SCENE WHERE I DID LIKE 42 TAKES. THAT WAS THE MOST TIRING DAY OF MY LIFE. MY VOCAL CORDS WERE STRAINED AFTER SCREAMING SO MUCH”

Shirt: Perlo Studios | Overcoat: House Of DK | Jeans: Jack & Jones India
Footwear: Kaka Sumi Studio | Accessories: Drip Project



> "WHEN JUG JUG JEEYO HAPPENED, IT GAVE ME A GLIMMER OF HOPE. IF THE MASSES HADNT TAKEN TO IT THEN MAYBE I WOULD HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT PERSON. BUT THANK GOD THE FILM DID WELL. WE MADE THE FILM WITH GOOD INTENTIONS. WHEN YOUR INTENT IS GOOD, SOMETIMES THINGS WORK OUT"

Denim jacket: Anamika Khanna | Pants: Diseno | Tank: Aura - The Hub
Shoes: Kaka Sumi Studio | Accessories: Drip project

SO WHEN HE SAYS KHELO DOES HE LET YOU PLAY WITH YOUR CHARACTER OR GIVE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS?
No, he doesn't let you play. Everything is within the framework of the film and the character.

DID YOU SURPRISE YOURSELF WHILE PLAYING THE CHARACTER OR THAT DOESN T HAPPEN ANYMORE?
I prepared a lot for this film. Sometimes when you don't prepare and go into a film, then there are more chances to be surprised. Here, there was so much hard work before the film started. We knew exactly what we wanted to do. I don't think I've acted in this film like I've acted in other films. I couldn't pitch the lines like I normally do. There are some scenes that have a realness to them, and some that are hyper. Amar didn't want me to be where I am. It was *sur upar ya sur neeche pakadna hai.* Here, he had told me beforehand, *"Aisa hai, aisa karna hai."*

YOU VE COMPLETED TEN YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY. CAN WE CALL YOU A BONAFIDE VETERAN NOW?
No, I'm not. I think birthdays and these years that we keep counting are the worst things we do. We should stop doing it. We should stop reminding people. Why are you reminding people? Enjoy, party... *Ab tum itne saal ke ho gaye ho. Tumko kya hai?* Let's enjoy every day.

BUT WHAT HAS BEEN THESE TEN YEARS LIKE FOR YOU WHEN YOU LOOK BACK?
I still feel like a

> “THERE ARE SO MANY PLACES IN OUR COUNTRY AND SO MANY THINGS THAT WE DONT KNOW. WE ARE IGNORING THE VILLAGE AUDIENCE. WHY ARE WE NOT MAKING VILLAGE STORIES ANYMORE? HOW MANY MYTHOLOGIES DO THEY HAVE?”

newcomer. Especially with *Bhediya* and *Bawaal* coming up. In the post-pandemic period, I feel we are starting all over again. Winning back the audience, making films which are relevant to now…The question now is how do we engage the audience again?

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED AND WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GRAPPLE WITH THE CHANGE. RIGHT?

But that's true of every business. The problem is that *humara* report card *sabko dikh jaata hai, baakiyon ka* report card *sabko nahi dikhta hai. Bas* that's the difference.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE PEOPLE NOT COMING TO THE THEATRES?

I spend too much time worrying. Now I don't want to. When *Jug Jug Jeeyo* happened, it gave me a glimmer of hope. If the masses hadn't taken to it then maybe I would have been a different person. But thank God the film did well. We made the film with good intentions. When your intent is good, sometimes things work out. It was good that people came to watch the film. When I was promoting the film, I felt they wanted to come into the theatre. But now you've to give them a little more than you gave them before.

YEAH

So *Bhediya* is a lot more in terms of the story, the VFX, the action. It's exciting. You don't know what you're going to expect. And there's a lot of humour too. It's new.

BUT ARE YOU WORRIED BECAUSE NOTHING IS WORKING.

Obviously everyone is worried. But no one has the answer.

IT SEEMS PEOPLE DON T WANT TO COME INTO THE THEATRES.

But they are watching. Don't say they're not watching content. *Sab kuch dekh rahe hain* streaming pe. See, technology has hit the industry. Now it's about finding the balance, that which film is meant for which medium. So it's just the medium that is evolving. Theatrical releases will work eventually. Obviously, we need to introspect. I think everyone is doing it. You will see that change soon. There's going to be a lot of quality control coming up.

WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE AT A HAPPY PLACE IN YOUR CAREER NOW?

I'm trying to be. The problem with us is that we don't want to always be happy. We need to start being a little grateful for where we are. And I've never been. I'm always like *yeh achcha nahi hai, woh achcha nahi hai.* I actually want to start giving myself a pat on the back.

WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?

I don't know. But I don't do it enough. That is what I've been telling myself these days… I've really worked hard and I've actually done good work. And I must give myself credit for it. But I don't. It was probably the way I was brought up. Or probably the people who were closest to me didn't let me…

SIT ON YOUR LAURELS?

Maybe they overdid it. Whether it's my dad or whether it's Karan (Johar), since day one they've been like, "Don't do it." But I've done cool things. Whether it's things they wanted me to do or things they didn't... I have to be more grateful for everything.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU HAD A 100 PERCENT RECORD AT THE BOX-OFFICE. DID THAT EVER PUT ANY PRESSURE ON YOU?

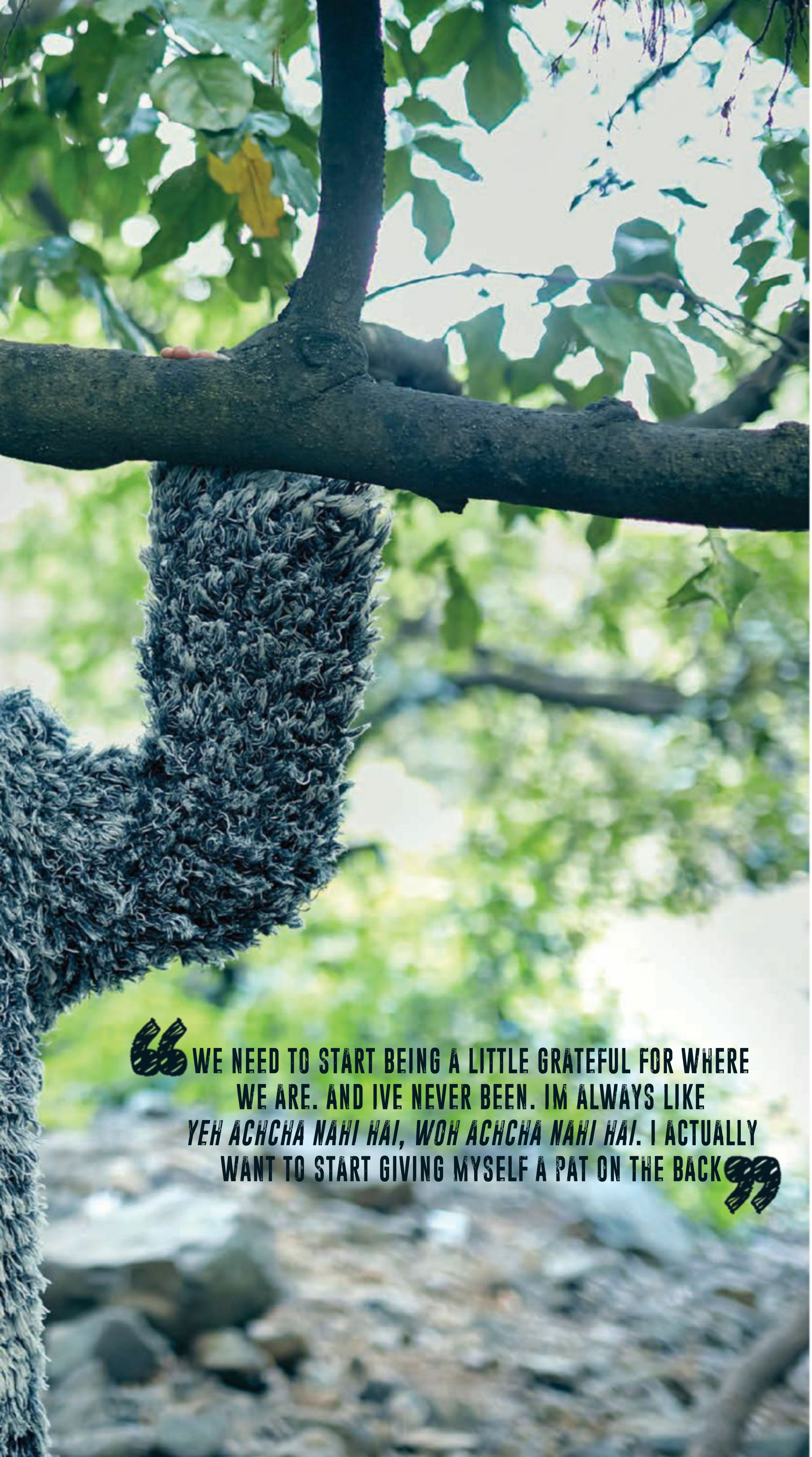
Ya, it did. And I find it stupid that I allowed the pressure get to me. I guess I'm not stupid. It would have put pressure on anyone, for that matter. So it put pressure on me and I couldn't cope with it. I think I let people get to me at that point. I was too naive, I had not lived enough life. I still haven't, actually; I'm still young. This experience has made me grow up a lot. So I need to work on other things, not my career.

WHAT ARE THE OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO WORK ON?.

The overthinking.

OVERTHINKING?

Yeah. We are all competing. We are running in an imaginary rat race, where there's none. The world has changed, right. *Koi* first *aa gaya toh theek hai,* very good. Second *aaya woh bhi achcha hai,* third *aaya woh bhi achcha hai, jo* fifth, sixth, and *jo* tenth *aaya wohi bhi achcha hai.* We have to stop thinking too much about who's on top and who's not.



> WE NEED TO START BEING A LITTLE GRATEFUL FOR WHERE WE ARE. AND IVE NEVER BEEN. IM ALWAYS LIKE *YEH ACHCHA NAHI HAI, WOH ACHCHA NAHI HAI*. I ACTUALLY WANT TO START GIVING MYSELF A PAT ON THE BACK

I just feel that social media has added to it all. It's all imaginary. We need to get over it. We are falling into that bubble. It's happening to everyone. I've not taken very constructive steps. But I do try to stay away from technology as much as I can.

HOW DO YOU KEEP SANE WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING AROUND YOU?
You've got to stop being a people pleaser. I've realised that what I love most is actually just acting. I enjoy acting, taking that shot. I don't know if I'm enjoying the rest of this nonsense that comes with it. So I'm pulling back. I should enjoy that too because I did at one point. I went to *Thumkeshwari's* launch recently. I went to Gaiety. I had a great time. Seeing people dance on chairs. I enjoyed it. But then going to a TV show for promotion is so blah... Maybe it works. It used to work at one point. I don't know if it's still working. And even if it's working, if you're not comfortable doing it, then maybe you shouldn't do it. You should do what you feel comfortable with. It's getting a little monotonous. We've all been doing the same thing for a while. I feel the problem with films is also this: everything is the same. You want a little, "*abhi kya naya kar sakte hain.*" That's why I'm excited about *Bhediya*. I'm not just saying it's 3D. It has all those aspects. It can promise a good time. And who doesn't want to have a good time?

TREUE. WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR RIGHT NOW?
When I was shooting

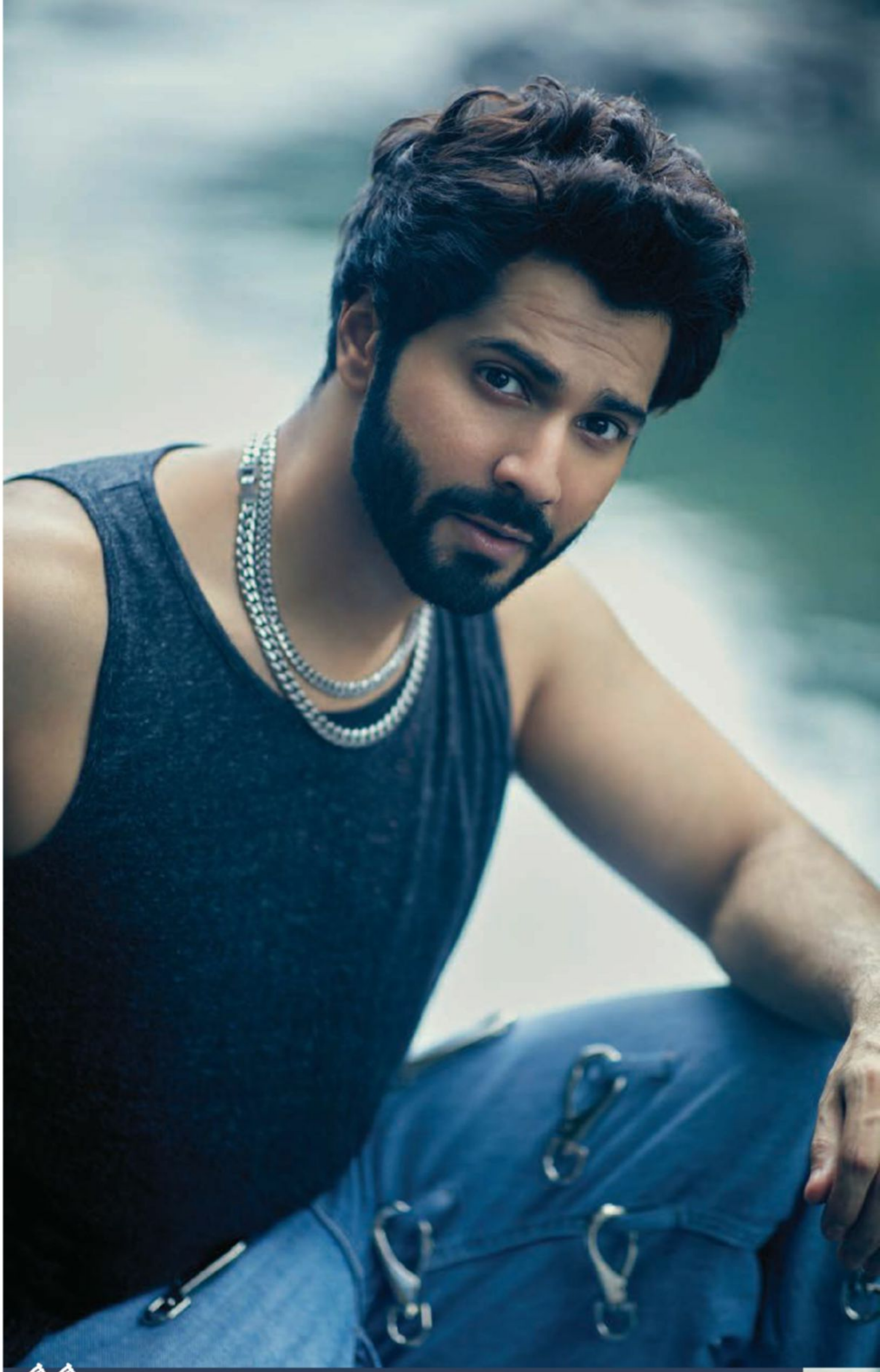
the song *Thumkeshwari* for *Bediya,* I was going through an illness known as vestibular hypofunction, where you lose your balance. Everything was dizzy and shaky. That continued for a long time. And it took a while to figure out what the problem was. There's no cure for it. There's no tablet for it. There's nothing. So what do you do? It was very difficult. But when I did the song, I realised that I could work, and that gave me so much happiness that I could ignore everything. Again and again, it is good to be reminded of why you love working. It's like a love story. And you have to keep falling back in love with yourself and your work.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS YOU'RE TAKING TO JUST CHILL NOW?
Cutting off a little bit from social media. Not getting so obsessed with it. Yoga has been very helpful. Just taking time off, on and off. When you can take time off, you should take time off. Being not so involved is a good thing. .

AND HOW S MARRIAGE BEEN TREATING YOU?
Very good and really fun. It doesn't feel like I'm married. It still feels like we are dating. It's very new, so it's exciting.

HAS LIFE CHANGED FOR YOU SINCE MARRIAGE?
I have my own house; I live with my wife and my dog, so that's a big change. My parents live above my flat. But yeah, I'm made to feel a lot more responsible.

YOU VE BOUGHT YOURSELF A



> “I FIND IT STUPID THAT I ALLOWED THE PRESSURE TO GET TO ME. I GUESS IM NOT STUPID. IT WOULD HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON ANYONE, FOR THAT MATTER”

PUPPY? HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

Yes. I got Joey after the film. Because there were so many dogs in Arunachal. There weren't Beagles but there were indies. I'd keep playing with them. I don't know why, after doing this film something happened to me. I fell in love with dogs. So I got him. He's very loving. I feared dogs initially but now I'm okay.

DO YOU SEE A CHANGE IN YOUR BEHAVIOUR SINCE YOU GOT HIM?

A lot. Especially towards them. Big change. Change towards humans also.

YOU STARTED LOVING HUMANS MORE?

(Guffaws) Less.

HOW HAS NATASHA CHANGED YOU?

All these things about realising not to be hard on myself are all hers. I feel everyone should keep working on themselves so they can be most peaceful, satisfied, and happy.

WHAT WOULD THE REAL VARUN DHAWAN LIKE TO DO NOW?

The real Varun Dhawan would like to think less and just be present in the moment. Yes, we are all overthinking. We are all wasting our time thinking about what others are thinking. *Woh kya soch raha hai* seems to be on top of our minds. We don't enjoy our present. This is what social media has done. I'm trying to invest more time in learning about God and spirituality.

REALLY?

More than spirituality, learning about my own religion. Because we don't know about Hinduism. I'm a born Hindu, but how much do I know about my religion? I have taken steps this year to read the entire Bhagavad Gita, to read the Mahabharata, to practise certain things. And just to learn more and understand more. I genuinely believe Hinduism is such an amazing religion. such a peaceful religion. We have so much knowledge in our own country and in our own culture that is untapped. And we are most of the time only getting influenced by the West, when we have far more power in our roots than any other country.

YOU ARE GOING BACK TO YOUR ROOTS?

Hmmm. I have this calling… So whenever a film or a trailer of mine releases I go to Hare Rama, Hare Krishna Iskcon. It's my thing I do.Recently, one of my closest friends Ankit came home and asked me to go with him to the temple. For some reason, I couldn't go. I remember it was *Karva Chauth.* Natasha had taken Joey for a walk in the morning. And some monks approached her and gave her a card. She came home and gave me the card, it had Hare Rama Hare Krishna written on it. I was like this is a calling. In the afternoon, I had a script narration and I'm not lying, I'm hearing this script and *usmein koi bacha* kidnap *hota hai,* and the monks are returning the child, and they're saying Hare Rama, Hare Krishna, Hare Rama, Hare Krishna. Just imagine. I realised it was telling me something. The only reason I am saying this story is because it was so amazing. I went to the temple then. I had to go. Then it started raining so heavily that I couldn't leave for one and a half hour

EVENTUALLY YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO WHO YOU ARE

We talk about everything but we wont talk about our religious side. Why? There are so many actors who are into the art of living or do meditation. But no one talks about it. I don't know why? This is also important.

MAYBE BECAUSE RELIGION IS PRIVATE?

Why is it private? If you're gaining strength from Ishwar, Prabhu, from whatever you call him, why is it private? I will not put videos of me praying, that is my private thing. But if you ask me what gives me joy, I don't think I should hide that. It really gives me a sense of peace and belonging. ■

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

67TH PARLE FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2022 WITH KAMAR FILM FACTORY

PARLE
67th FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022
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Karnataka One state. Many worlds.
FUTURE TV

The Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Telugu was presented by Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Sarita to Allu Arjun, who won it for *Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1*

Bangalore-based Kamar Film Factory is one of the unique organisation's in South India, that predominantly works in the entertainment industry of Southern India. Kamar Film Factory has a legacy of 48 successful years in film distribution, film exhibition and film production in Kannada, Hindi and other South Indian languages. Recently, this powerhouse Production house joined hands in celebrating the most coveted Filmfare Awards South 2022 a night which honoured the finest films from Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam film industries, the 67th Parle Filmfare Awards South 2022 was a star-studded event. That being said, Allu Arjun's *Pushpa: The Rise – Part 1* was among the top winners at the event. The upcoming projects by this family led production house includes Tele Film Awards and the most awaited IBL – Indian Bowling League and they truly believe in focussing and specialising in creation and execution.

AWARDS SOUTH

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given posthumously to the late Puneeth Rajkumar. Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar handed over the trophy to Puneeth Rajkumar's sister Poornima Ramkumar and niece Dhanya Ramkumar

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022
co powered by
FUTURE

The Best Actor (Critics') Kannada was presented by Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory to Darling Krishna, who won it for *Love Mocktail*

AWARDS S
Karnataka
KVN

A Special Award was presented to the late Chiranjeevi Sarja. Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar gave the trophy to the actor's wife Meghana Raj

NIGHT OF THE WINNERS

DEVESH SHARMA profiles all the winners of the recently concluded 67TH PARLE FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2022 WITH KAMAR FILM FACTORY

PHOTOGRAPHS: KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

(L-R) Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) Malayalam **Nimisha Sajayan**, Best Actor (Critics') Telugu **Nani**, Best Actress (Critics') Tamil **Aparna Balamurali**, Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) and Best Actress (Critics') Telugu, **Sai Pallavi**, Best Actor (Critics') Malayalam **Jayasurya**, Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Telugu **Allu Arjun**, Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Tamil **Suriya**, Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female) Telugu **Tabu**, Best Actress (Critics') Malayalam **Kani Kusruti**, Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Kannada **Dhananjaya**, Best Debut (Female) Telugu **Krithi Shetty**, Best Debut (Male) Malayalam **Dev Mohan**

The Lifetime Achievement Award is our most prestigious award and this year it was awarded posthumously to Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar, who tragically passed away last year. It was also awarded to veteran filmmaker Allu Aravind, whose son Allu Arjun incidentally was the winner of the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Award for the Telugu film *Pushpa: The Rise-Part 1.* Sai Pallavi was the winner of both the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) for *Love Story* and the Best Actress (Critics') Telugu for *Shyam Singha Roy*. Suriya won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for the Tamil film *Soorarai Pottru*, while Aparna Balamurali, his leading lady in the film, won the Best Actress (Critics') for her performance. Nani was awarded with the Best Actor (Critics') Telugu trophy for *Shyam Singha Roy*. Turn the pages to know more about them and other winners…

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE) TELUGU

ALLU ARJUN

PUSHPA: THE RISE - PART 1

The actor plays a happy-go-lucky villager who becomes enchanted by the lure of easy money and decides to become a sandalwood smuggler. How he rises to the top forms the crux of the story. It's a film which sets up a relentless pace and doesn't let up till the last frame. Allu Arjun keeps up the swag quotient throughout, keeping pace with the narrative.

Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1

FILMFAR
AWARDS SOUTH 2
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UTUR

Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Sarita do the honours

27-28
84
71
audio zone
audio zone

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE) TAMIL

SURIYA

SOORARAI POTTRU

The film offers a fictionalised account of the life of Captain GR Gopinath, who dreamt of bringing affordable air travel for the middle-class travellers. Suriya lives and breathes his role. Every action he takes seems dedicated to achieving his goal. He never gives up, every hurdle propelling him to jump higher. It was a performance brimming with positive vibes.

Soorarai Pottru

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

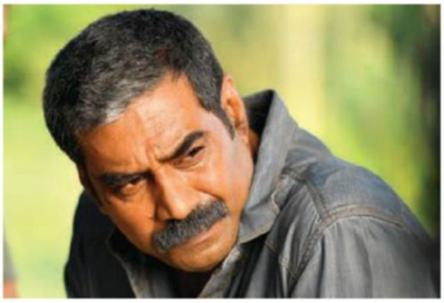
K Venkat Narayan – Proprietor, KVN Productions and Nisha Venkat hand over the Black Lady

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE) MALAYALAM

BIJU MENON

AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM

The film revolves around the conflict between two men. One is a reformed goonda who is now a mild-mannered policeman and the other is an ex-soldier who happens to be a politician's son. Biju Menon plays the cop with the cleanest record in the force whose inner demon gets reawakened due to circumstances. It's a treat watching him turn into a monster, giving in to years of suppressed angst. It's one of the best portrayals of toxic masculinity in recent times.



Ayyappanum Koshiyum

AWARDS SOUTH 2022
Karnataka
One state. Many worlds
KVN

R Madhavan presents the trophy

27-28
84
audio zone
71

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE) KANNADA

DHANANJAYA

BADAVA RASCAL

The film is an action comedy. The hero narrates his backstory to the gangsters who kidnap him. Moved by his story, they become friends with him and agree to help him. Dhananjaya plays a happy-go-lucky man who makes friends easily and always sticks by his friendship. This trait leads him into trouble and gets him out of troubled situations as well. The actor goes with the flow of the story and manages to charm the audience with his antics.

Badava Rascal

AWARDS SOUTH 2022
co-powered by
KVN

Rukshar Dhillon and Kiran Rathod hand over the award

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE) TELUGU

SAI PALLAVI

LOVE STORY

The actress plays an upper-class girl falling in love with a guy from the lower class. She goes through several upheavals in her quest for love. It's a violent love story with different shades to it and Sai Pallavi shines in every frame as she navigates one setback after another, making the audience root for her character.

Love Story

co-powered by
FUTURES

Sumalatha does the honours

27-28
F
84
zone

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE) TAMIL

LIJOMOL JOSE

JAI BHIM

The film is a living testament on oppression meted out to dalits in our country even today. Lijomol Jose plays a woman belonging to the marginalised community who refuses to bow down to the powerful and fights a court battle for her rights. The actress essays the role with grace and dignity, bringing to fore both the vulnerability and the quiet strength of her character.

Jai Bhim

Shehnaaz Gill hands over the Black Lady

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE) MALAYALAM

NIMISHA SAJAYAN

THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN

Nimisha Sajayan plays a trained dancer caught in the rut of traditional Indian arranged marriage. She isn't allowed to have a career. and her place is relegated to being that of an unpaid cook, servant and sexual companion to her husband. She starts finding the drudgery hard to bear after a while and finds courage to move out of the marriage one day, making her own place in the world.

The Great Indian Kitchen

AWARDS SOUTH
powered by
FUTUR
tion with
the tribe
concepts

R Madhavan does the honours

27-28
F
84
audio zone
71
audio zone

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE) KANNADA

YAGNA SHETTY

ACT 1978

Yagna Shetty plays a pregnant widow in the film. The government officials aren't hurrying her file along as they all want bribes. She's forced to take a violent approach to get the money that has been sanctioned to her. How she turns from a mild-mannered person to a violent vigilante forms the crux of this action thriller. The actress has outdone herself in every aspect of the role and manages to win both the sympathy of the audience and their acclaim.

Act 1978

Rukshar Dhillon and Kiran Rathod hand over the trophy to Manso Re who takes it on Yagna Shetty's behalf

BEST ACTOR
(CRITICS') TELUGU

NANI

SHYAM SINGHA ROY

Nani plays a double role in this reincarnation drama. He plays a budding filmmaker who has visions of being a reformist author. The actor lends authenticity to both the parts, bringing out quirks and eccentricities of both characters and making us believe we're watching two separate individuals and not the same person essaying them.

Shyam Singha Roy

AWARDS SOUTH 2022
Karnata
One state. Mar
FUTURE
he tribe concepts

Tabu presents the Black Lady

1MTR
84
audio z

BEST ACTOR
(CRITICS') TAMIL

ARYA

SARPATTA PARAMBARAI

Arya stated it was the "most tough role in my career" when he took on the character of Kabilan, a boxer from North Chennai. He trained six hours a day for seven months, mixing cardio, boxing, and weight training, to play the part. But more than the hard won physical transformation, what won the viewer's over was the actor's intensity.

Sarpatta Parambarai

BEST ACTOR
(CRITICS') TAMIL

ARVIND SWAMI

THALAIVII

It's never easy to play an icon, that too someone of the stature of MGR. But Arvind Swami managed to pull it off with aplomb. It was a performance totally dedicated to the spirit of the late actor and politician. Arvind Swami wasn't just portraying a legend but became the symbol of his philosophy as well. He went with the flow, trusting in the director's vision and came up with yet another superior performance.

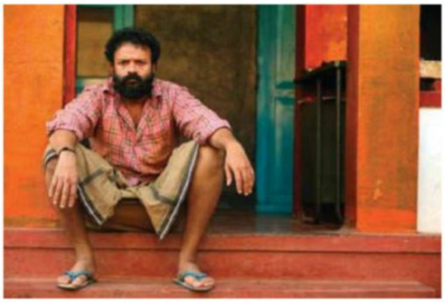
Thalaivii

BEST ACTOR
(CRITICS') MALAYALAM

JAYASURYA

VELLAM

Jayasurya plays a die-hard alcoholic who goes on a long road to recovery in the film. He faces many trials, many soul-searching moments during his journey. It's a harrowing portrayal of an addict who has been shunned by everyone because of his habit. Jayasurya doesn't look like an actor portraying a role in a film but comes across as an actual alcoholic who regrets his earlier lifestyle.



Vellam

Brahmaji Rao gives away the award

BEST ACTOR
(CRITICS') KANNADA

DARLING KRISHNA

LOVE MOCKTAIL

Krishna, who has also directed the film, plays a man in search of true love. He goes through several breakups and heartbreaks and ultimately finds a girl who is just right for him. He marries her and the duo look destined to be together forever, till cancer claims her life. The actor shows maturity in essaying the role of a person who knows what true love is but unfortunately doesn't have it in his life anymore.

Love Mocktail

AWARDS SOUTH 2

Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory
presents the Black Lady

BEST ACTRESS (CRITICS') TELUGU

SAI PALLAVI

SHYAM SINGHA ROY

Sai Pallavi plays a *devdasi* in this historical romance. It's a love story between a temple dancer and a young man carrying reformist ideas. Their worlds collide and the duo end up falling for each other. The actress lives and breathes each moment and her dance routines, inspired by classical dances, are something else indeed.

Shyam Singha Roy

Rohini Moleti hands over the award

BEST ACTRESS
(CRITCS') TAMIL

APARNA BALAMURALI

SOORARAI POTTRU

The actress plays a supportive wife and fellow dreamer, helping her husband with all she has and more in his bid to realise the dream of owning a low-cost carrier. Aparna Balamurali is all natural in front of the camera, letting her expressions and body language do the talking, instead of mouthing mealy dialogue.

Soorarai Pottru

Sandeep Kishan presents the trophy

BEST ACTRESS
(CRITICS') MALAYALAM

KANI KUSRUTI

BIRIYAANI

Biriyaani is a dark, dark film about being a marginalised Muslim women in Kerala backwaters. Kani Kusruti plays a character who undergoes severe emotional trauma. Every good thing she has gets taken away from her. It takes a near-death experience for her to find herself again. It's a role which would require much of any actor and Kani Kusruti gives it her all, winning accolades for her performance.

Biriyaani

Brahmaji Rao gives away the Black Lady

BEST ACTRESS
(CRITICS') KANNADA

MILANA NAGARAJ

LOVE MOCKTAIL

The film is a coming-of-age story revolving around the protagonist's quest for finding true love. After meeting several girls, the hero does find a girl who truly loves him, only to lose her to cancer. Milana Nagraj approaches her role with natural finesse. She plays a doting wife who must prepare her husband for her passing away and handles her scenes with the gravitas they deserve.

Love Mocktail

Malashree gives away the trophy

27-28
F
84
audio zone
71
audio zone

BEST ACTRESS
(CRITICS') KANNADA

AMRUTHA IYENGAR

BADAVA RASCAL

Amrutha Iyengar plays a girl who has to choose between her politician mother and her happy-go-lucky lover. Intimidated by her mother, she initially rejects him, only to emerge as a rebel later. Her role is crucial to this action comedy and Amrutha does ample justice to it, confirming to its every shade.

Badava Rascal

Malashree presents the award

BEST FILM - TELUGU

PUSHPA: THE RISE - PART 1

Pushpa: The Rise is a neo-noir thriller with sandalwood smuggling as the background. It revolves around a wayward youth who takes to smuggling and rises to become the most powerful crime boss of his era. The film has mass entertainer written all over it in bold letters and is a treat to watch from the first frame to the last.

Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1

Mr Krishna Rao Buddha - Sr. Category Head - Marketing, Parle Products Pvt. Ltd and Sumalatha do the honours

27-28
MYSORE
audio zone

BEST FILM - TAMIL

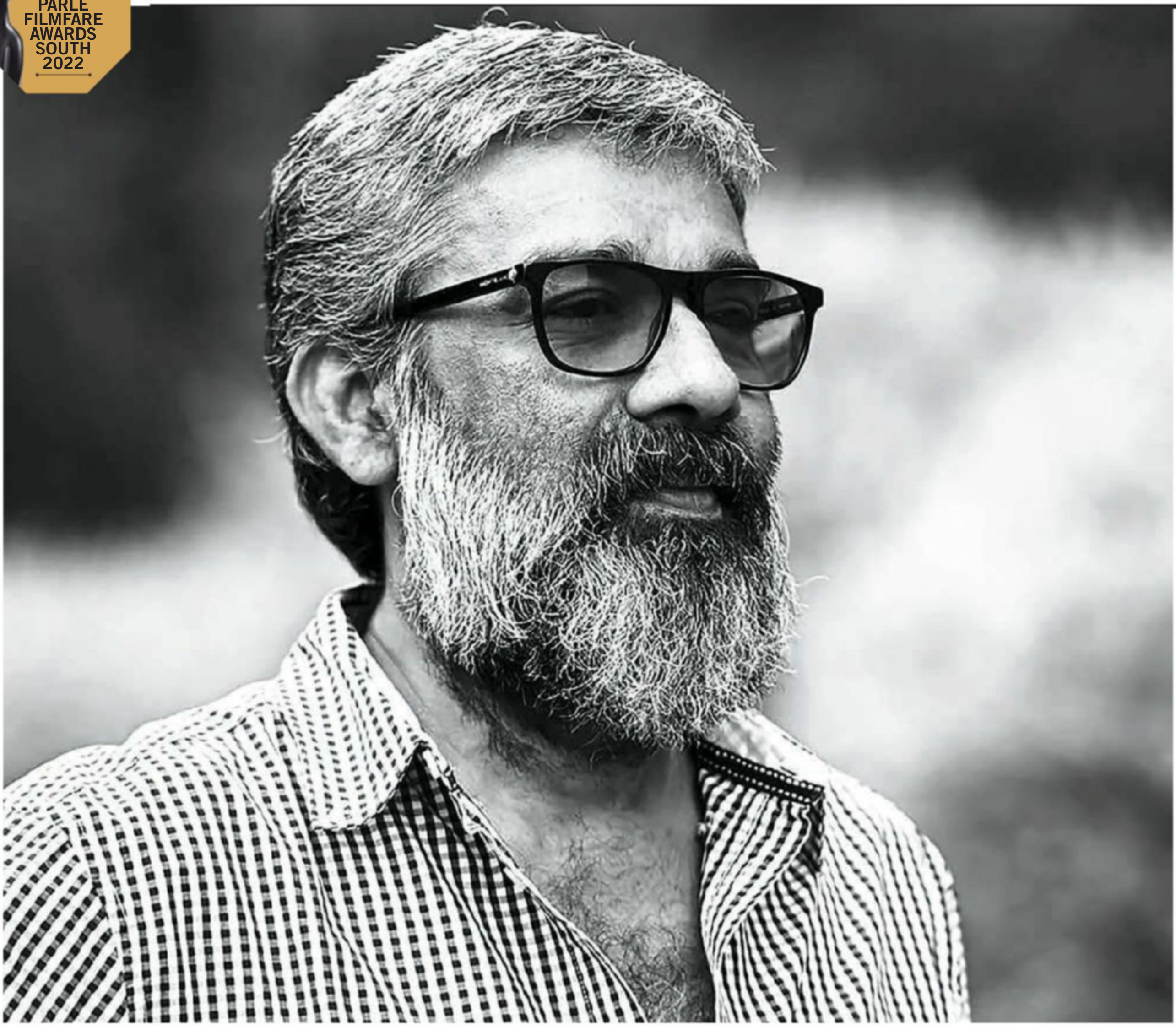
JAI BHIM

This brilliant film is a sad reflection of the caste bias that exists even today. It is based on a real-life occurrence from 1993 that involved a lawsuit contested by Justice K. Chandru and it centres on the lives of Sengeni and Rajakannu, a couple from the Irular tribe. Police detained Rajakannu, who was later reported missing from the police station. Sengeni asks Chandru, a lawyer, for assistance in her fight for her husband's rights.

Jai Bhim

PARLE
FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022
KFF
FUTURE

Mr Krishna Rao Buddha - Sr. Category Head - Marketing, Parle Products Pvt. Ltd and Sumalatha hand over the trophy



BEST FILM - MALAYALAM

AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM

This is an action thriller where the egoes of a policeman, who used to be a goon, and an ex-soldier, whose father is a rich politician, collide, leading to disastrous consequences all around. They both realise that this game of one-upmanship is going to destroy them both. However, both are unwilling to blink first, hoping for the other party to surrender. It takes them several hard knocks to think about a reconciliation but by then, things might already be too late.

Ayyappanum Koshiyum

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Tarun Chandra, Harshika Poonacha and KGF Babu present the award

BEST FILM - KANNADA

ACT 1978

Don’t the poor have rights? The bureaucracy doesn’t think so, as it’s often seen that those with lesser means are made to run from pillar to post even for things that they are entitled for. Violence is often the only course open to them and the protagonist of the film takes to it in order to open the minds of our politicians and government servants about the problems faced by thousands like her. It’s a gritty thriller which also provides a powerful message at the same time.

Act 1978

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Tarun Chandra, Harshika Poonacha and KGF Babu hand over the trophy

BEST DIRECTOR - TELUGU

SUKUMAR BANDREDDI

PUSHPA: THE RISE - PART 1

The film revolves around the story of an unemployed villager, who becomes a sandal smuggler by chance and goes on to become the top name in the smuggling racket. Be it the mass action scenes, the innovative ways of the smugglers or the confrontation scenes between the hero and the police, Sukumar makes sure we remain on the edge of our seats throughout.

Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1

co powered by

Malashree and Mr Nadeem Akthar - CEO, MKS Group Of Companies hand over the trophy

1MTR
udio zone

BEST DIRECTOR - TAMIL

SUDHA KONGARA

SOORARAI POTTRU

The film is a testament to the courage and foresight of Captain GR Gopinath, who dreamt of operating a low-cost airline so that the middle class could also enjoy the benefits of air travel. It's a simplified, fictionalised account of the entrepreneur's life. Such stories need to be told because we kind of lack entrepreneur spirit in India. The film was praised for its technical finesse and soulful performances.

Soorarai Pottru

Malashree presents the award

BEST DIRECTOR - MALAYALAM

SENNA HEGDE

THINKALAZHCHA NISHCHAYAM

The film is a marriage comedy of sorts revolving around the antics of a dysfunctional family, when they gather for the younger daughter's engagement. Besides providing comic relief, the film highlights the fact that the middle class at least, behaves in a set manner even now when it comes to arranged marriages. And that we need to shed certain things and grant greater autonomy to our girls when it comes to life-altering decisions.

Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 202

Sandeep Kishan and Krithi Shetty hand over the trophy

27-28
84
audio zone
71
audio zone

BEST DIRECTOR - KANNADA

RAJ B SHETTY

GARUDA GAMANA VRISHABHA VAHANA

Raj B Shetty has made a neo-noir gangland thriller centring around the friendship of the two protagonists who turn into enemies due to circumstances. They are out for each other's blood and the film rushes towards a violent climax, where death would be the only outcome. The violence in the film is quite visceral but adds to the overall drama of the film.

Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana

Sandeep Kishan, Krithi Shetty and Dr Zaheer Pasha - Chairman & MD, Eminent Business Group do the honours

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE) TELUGU

MURALI SHARMA

ALA VAINKUNTHAPURRAMULOO

Murali Sharma plays a man who is always coveting other people's riches and even takes to crime to achieve that end. He's forever unhappy with what he's got and till the end doesn't get redemption. It's one of those characters that we love to end and he plays it to perfection. He's been known as a versatile actor and he stamps his authority all over again with this film.

Ala Vainkunthapurramuloo

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

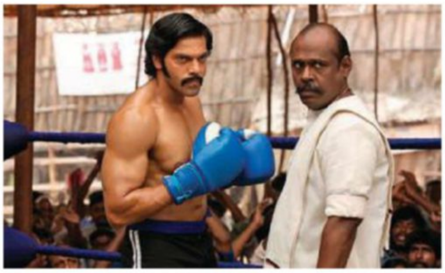
Malvika Sharma and Jumana Khan give away the award

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE) TAMIL

PASUPATHY

SARPATTA PARAMBARAI

Pasupathy plays the role of the protagonist's guru in the film. He was a boxer himself and knows that a warrior has to be tough both physically as well as mentally before a bout. While he didn't transform himself physically for the role, his body language is that of a former boxer, bringing out the nuances of a tough past through his mannerisms.



Sarpatta Parambarai

FARE
OUT 2022
KFF

Malvika Sharma and Jumana Khan present the trophy

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE) MALAYALAM

JOJU GEORGE

NAYATTU

The actor plays a high ranking police officer who has to go on the run with two of his colleagues when they all get falsely implicated for a crime they didn't commit. The character is shown choosing death by suicide to clear his name when all else fails . His performance is a study in how depression slowly eats up a person and giving in to it leads to fatal consequences.

Nayattu

ARE
UTH 2022

Deepti Sati and Gauthami Nair hand over the award

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE) KANNADA

B SURESHA

ACT 1978

The film is a metaphor of sorts to the angst felt by the common man towards the rampant corruption seen in the government offices. A pregnant widow takes to violence in order to get the amount already sanctioned by the government, as she's tired of bribing the government *babus*. Helping her is an old man, who supports her all the way. B Suresha doesn't speak much and yet narrates the anger he feels through his eyes and gestures.

JUSTICE DENIED..? FIGHT FOR IT!

Act 1978

FILMFARE
AWARDS SO 202
Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.

Ahana Kumra does the honours

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE) TELUGU

TABU

ALA VAINKUNTHAPURRAMULOO

Tabu plays a strict businesswoman who has a soft spot for her son in the film. She understands he isn't as ambitious as her or his father and has no problem accepting that. She also has issues with her husband but deals with them with grace. She leaves a lasting impression in her role and brings a certain gravitas to this massy entertainer.

Ala Vainkunthapurramuloo

co-powered by

Ms Amritha Gaddam - Founder and CEO, The Tribe Concepts and K S Chitra hand over the trophy

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE) TAMIL

URVASHI

SOORARAI POTTRU

Urvashi plays the protagonist's mother in the film and she's shown to be always supportive of his dream. She isn't just blindly supportive of her son's whims, however, and takes her daughter-in-law's side as well when needed. She made the role her own and hers was one of the most likeable characters in the film.

Soorarai Pottru

Malvika Sharma and Jumana Khan present the award

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE) MALAYALAM

GOWRI NANDHA

AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM

The actress plays the wife of the protagonist. She's much younger to him but there's much love between them despite that. She loves and respects him and is at his side when dire straits befall him. Gowri Nandha makes her presence felt in a small but important role and brings out a different angle to a film which is but a duel between two men.

Ayyappanum Koshiyum

ILMFARE
ARDS UTH 2022

Deepti Sati and Gauthami Nair hand over the trophy

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE) KANNADA

UMASHREE

RATHNAN PRAPANCHA

Umashree plays the role of the hero's mother in the film. She dotes on her son but has a rather caustic tongue, which sometimes leads to altercations between them. Her comic timing and punch dialogue were much appreciated by the audience. She brought forth a raw energy to this comedy and her performance added another layer to it.

Rathnan Prapancha

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Ahana Kumra presents the trophy to Dhananjaya who takes it on Umashree's behalf

BEST DEBUT (MALE)
TELUGU

PANJA VAISSHNAV TEJ

UPPENA

Panja Vaisshnav Tej plays a happy-go-lucky village youth, who falls in love with a girl from the higher caste. He elopes with her when he realises what he feels for her is something serious and not superficial. He goes through several hardships while on the run with her and tries to do his best to do the best for her with whatever little means he has.

Uppena

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Raghu Mukherjee and Anu Prabhakar present the award

BEST DEBUT (MALE) MALAYALAM

DEV MOHAN

SUFIYUM SUJATAYUM

The actor plays a Sufi priest in this film about a Hindu girl falling in love with the Sufi ideology and the tensions this leads to in her small community. It's a nuanced performance from the newcomer, who has to act opposite the heroine who suffers from speech handicap. As a result, all his cues have to be non verbal. He manages to overcome the hurdles and gives a sensitive performance.

Sufiyum Sujatayum

ARDS SOUTH 20

Priyamani presents the award

BEST DEBUT (FEMALE) TELUGU

KRITHI SHETTY

UPPENA

Kritthi Shetty plays a simple village girl who falls in love with a man from the lower caste. Their love isn't tolerated by her father and as a result the duo are forced to elope. Many trials and tribulations later, they do get united in the end. Krithi makes her presence felt in the role of a rich girl willing to undergo any sort of calamity for love.

Uppena

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Raghu Mukherjee and Anu Prabhakar hand over the Black Lady

BEST DEBUT
(FEMALE) MALAYALAM

ANAGHA NARAYANAN

THINKALAZHCHA NISHCHAYAM

Anagha Narayanan plays the girl who is set to get engaged to an NRI groom in this comedy. She's having second thoughts about giving in to her family's wishes as she's already in love with someone. How she stands up for her choices forms the crux of this delightful film, which is about the manners and mores of the members of a dysfunctional family coming to loggerheads with each other at an auspicious occasion.

Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022
KFI
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Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.
www.karnatakatourism.org
in association
KVN

Priyamani does the honours

BEST DEBUT (FEMALE) KANNADA

DHANYA RAMKUMAR

NINNA SANIHAKE

The film deals with the merits and demerits of live-in relationships. Debutante Dhanya Ramkumar is a natural in front of the camera. She plays a character who has strong views of her own and is no damsel in distress. She makes a point about the rights of women through the film. Her overall performance, as well as dialogue delivery have been praised by the critics.

Ninna Sanihake

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Sanjay Gowda – Proprietor, SG Productions and Priyamani do the honours

SPECIAL AWARD

CHIRANJEEVI SARJA

Chiranjeevi Sarja's maternal grandfather Shakti Prasad, uncle Arjun Sarja and younger brother Dhruva Sarja are all actors, while another uncle Kishore Sarja was a director. Sarja appeared in some 22 films, noted among them were *Vayuputra* (2009), *Varadhanayaka* (2013), *Whistle* (2013), *Chandralekha* (2014), *Rudra Tandava* (2015) and *Amma I Love You* (2018). The actor tragically passed away on June 6, 2020 when he was just in his late 30s. He was conferred with a special award posthumously in recognition of his potential.

Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar hand over the trophy to the late actor's wife Meghana Raj

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ALLU ARAVIND

Allu Aravind is the son of noted Telugu actor Allu Ramalingaiah. Some of his notable works as a producer are *Vijetha* (1985), *Master* (1997), *Ninaithen Vandhai* (Tamil) (1998), *Mangalyam Tantunanena* (Kannada) (1998), Annayya (2000), *Pellam Oorelithe* (2003), *Gangotri* (2003), *Johnny* (2003), *Bunny* (2005), *Jalsa* (2008), *Ghajini* (2008), *Magadheera* (2009), Sarrainodu (2016) and *Dhruva* (2016)
His son Allu Venkatesh is also a producer, while sons Allu Arjun and Allu Sirish are actors in their own right. Allu Aravind, whose sister Surekha Konidala is married to superstar Chiranjeevi, has given many hits with his brother-in-law. Apart from Telugu films, he has also produced Hindi films like *Ghajini* (2008), *Jersey* (2022) and the forthcoming *Shehzada.* He's also the founder and owner of aha, a Telugu OTT channel. The producer has also been known for his helpful nature and was bestowed with the Champions of Change Award in 2019 by the government of India for his charitable works in Andhra Pradesh.

Smt Allu Nirmala hands over the trophy to her husband as Rockline Venkatesh and Sumalatha look on

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PUNEETH RAJKUMAR

Puneeth Rajkumar started life in the films as a child actor. Director V. Somashekar cast Puneeth (who was known as Lohith then), when he was just six months old in *Premada Kanike* (1976). He even won the National Film Award for Best Child Artiste for his role of Ramu in *Bettada Hoovu.* He also won Karnataka State Award Best Child artiste for *Chalisuva Modagalu* (1982) and *Eradu Nakshatragalu* (1983). After making his name as a child artiste, the actor made his debut in a leading role in *Appu* (2002). It was a romantic actioner and ran for 200 days. He sang the song *Taliban alla alla* in the film, which was his first cinematic hit as an adult. HIs fans started calling him Appu after that. His second film, *Abhi* (2003), too proved to be a big earner, and lasted for 150 days at the box office. *Arasu* (2007) was one of the biggest hits of his career. He also won a Filmfare Best Actor In A Leading Role Award for it. He also won awards for *Hudugaru* (2011), *Rana Vikrama* (2015) and *Rajakumaara* (2017) in the same category. He passed away on October 29, 2021 due to a massive heart attack. He was just 46 at the time of his death.

Mr Kamar from Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar hand over the trophy to late Puneeth Rajkumar's sister Poornima Ramkumar and niece Dhanya Ramkumar

BEST MUSIC ALBUM TELUGU

DEVI SRI PRASAD

PUSHA: THE RISE – PART 1

Pusha easily is the album that scored the most hits. Whether it's the mass favourite cabaret number *Oo antava,* the love anthem *Sami,* or the lyrical *Srivalli,* it has something for everyone. DSP is known for his earthy tunes and displaying that abundantly in the film. He also has an uncanny knack for churning up zany dance tracks and does it with ease here as well.

Pusha: The Rise – Part 1

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Ritika Singh and Rockline Venkatesh present the Black Lady

BEST MUSIC ALBUM TAMIL

GV PRAKASH

SOORARAI POTTRU

Some say it's GVP's best outcome in recent times. While *Aagasm* symbolises the struggles of the protagonists, *Kaattu payale* reflects the attraction the lovers have for each other, The Maara theme is a sort of introductory anthem for Suriya, while *Mannurunda* has a dirge-like quality about it. GV Prakash has delivered and how.

Soorarai Pottru

Jyotika does the honours

BEST MUSIC ALBUM MALAYALAM

M JAYACHANDRAN

SUFIYUM SUJATAYUM

The songs, inspired by the Sufi tradition, carry authentic Turkish orchestration. Composer M Jayachandran turns his compositions into a confluence of Sufi instruments and Indian voices, leading to a fresh approach to music. The result is songs that's soup for your soul and which you can hear on loop despite the language restrictions for those who don't know Malayalam. It's a masterpiece album indeed.

Sufiyum Sujatayum

ARDS SO H 2022

Sharvari Wagh presents the award

67th
PARLE
FILMFARE
AWARDS
SOUTH
2022

BEST MUSIC ALBUM KANNADA

VASUKI VAIBHAV

BADAVA RASCAL

The film is an action comedy and the songs reflect that. The title theme song however is an ode to friendship, which also is a recurring theme of the film. The rest are peppy numbers which talk about how love changes a person. The songs have a frothy, feel-good quality to them and the soundscape is contemporary in nature, with some folk elements thrown in.

Badava Rascal

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 20

Ms Lalitha Rajyalaxmi - Partner, Future TV & Mrunal Thakur hand over the award

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE) TELUGU

SID SRIRAM

SRIVALLI (PUSHPA: THE RISE – PART 1)

Srivalli is a song full of love and longing. Our shy hero has been wounded by Cupid's arrow and as a result, sees his beloved everywhere. He's pining for her day and night and can't get her out of his head. The sweet agony felt by a lover is captured superbly in Sid Sriram's eclectic rendition. You don't have to know the language to enjoy the song.

Pushpa: The Rise – Part 1

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Asha Bhatt hands over the trophy to director Sukumar who collects it on Sid Sriram's behalf

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE) TAMIL

CHRISTIN JOS AND GOVIND VASANTHA

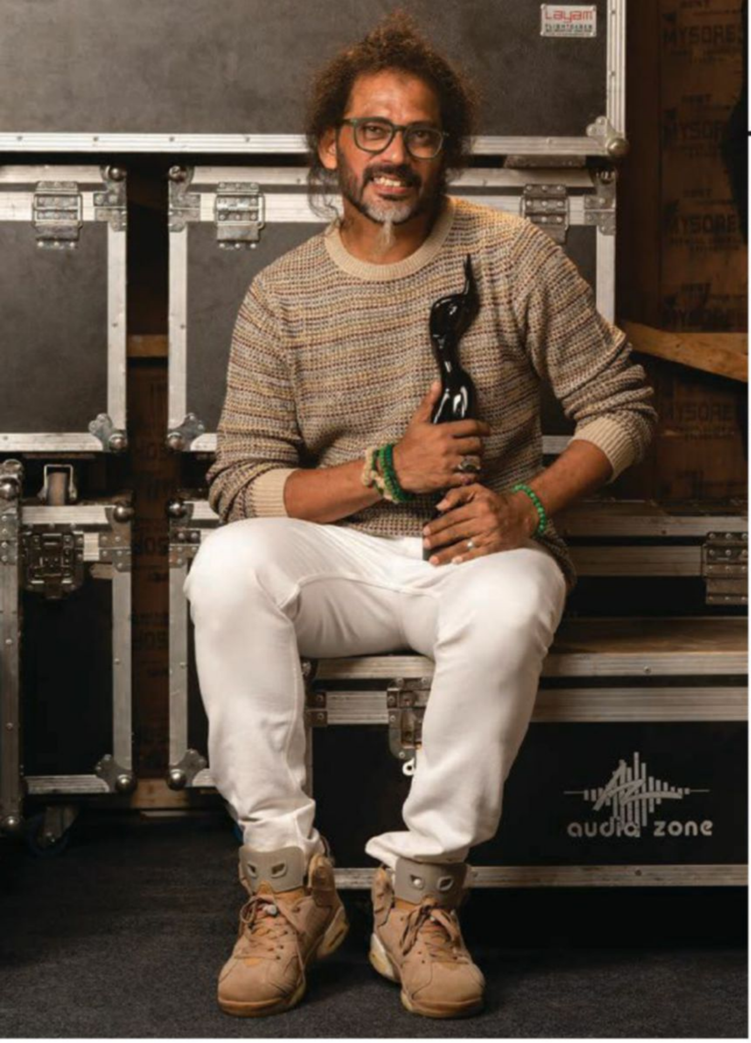
AAGASAM (SOORARAI POTTRU)

The film revolves around the protagonist's desire to own an airline which caters to the rural, less-travelled regions as well. The song is a celebration of that dream of touching the sky. Our heroes may not have the means for such a grand plan and are gambling on the basis of guts, sweat and determination and the song touches on all that and more.

Soorarai Pottru

FILMFARE
AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Asha Bhatt presents the award



BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE) MALAYALAM

SHAHABAZ AMAN

AKASHAMAYAVALE (VELLAM)

The song is a paean to lost love. The protagonist had everything he wanted but the sky where he could roam free, the wind which propelled his wings, the sun which gave him warmth have all gone away from him and he finds himself longing for them. He knows that it's his mistakes which have pushed them away and he regrets being his former self.

Vellam

Priya Warrier hands over the trophy

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE) KANNADA

RAGHU DIXIT

MALEY MALEY MALEYA (NINNA SANIHAKE)

The film is a love story about two different people falling for each other. The song encapsulates the feelings of the protagonist, who can't bear separation from his beloved. It evokes the feelings of hurt, loneliness and also gives voice to the hero's angst. Raghu Dixit has outdone himself in the rendition. You'll enjoy the song even if you don't know the language.

Ninna Sanihake

Sharvari Wagh presents the Black Lady

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE) TELUGU

INDRAVATHI CHAUHAN

OO ANTAVA (PUSHPA: THE RISE - PART 1)

This was the dance number that made the nation swing to its beats. Its raunchy lyrics actually are a critique of the male gaze. The sultry rendition made the crowd go wild whenever the song got played, not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in rest of India as well. Some songs become instant classics and Indravathi Chauhan's voice had a long hand into making it one.

Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1

AWARDS SOUTH 2022

Meghana Raj and Mr Dilip Surana – MD, Dilip Surana Group, hand over the Black Lady

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE) TAMIL

DHEE

KAATTU PAYALE (SOORARAI POTTRU)

The song is a celebration of love and commitment. The two leads are head over heels in love with each other and can't wait to consummate their longing. At the same time, they also share a dream of opening an airline together. Both desires go hand in hand. The need for physical intimacy is perfectly captured by the singer.

Soorarai Pottru

Asha Bhatt does the honours

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE) MALAYALAM

KS CHITHRA

THEERAME (MALIK)

The song talks about the first flush of love, of attraction between the lovers. They have just met and yet feel a pull towards each other like the waves are pulled towards the shore. It's something that can't be described through words and could only be experienced. The singer has sung the song in her mellifluous voice and has done full justice to the lyrics.

Malik

Priya Warrier hands over the trophy

BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE) KANNADA

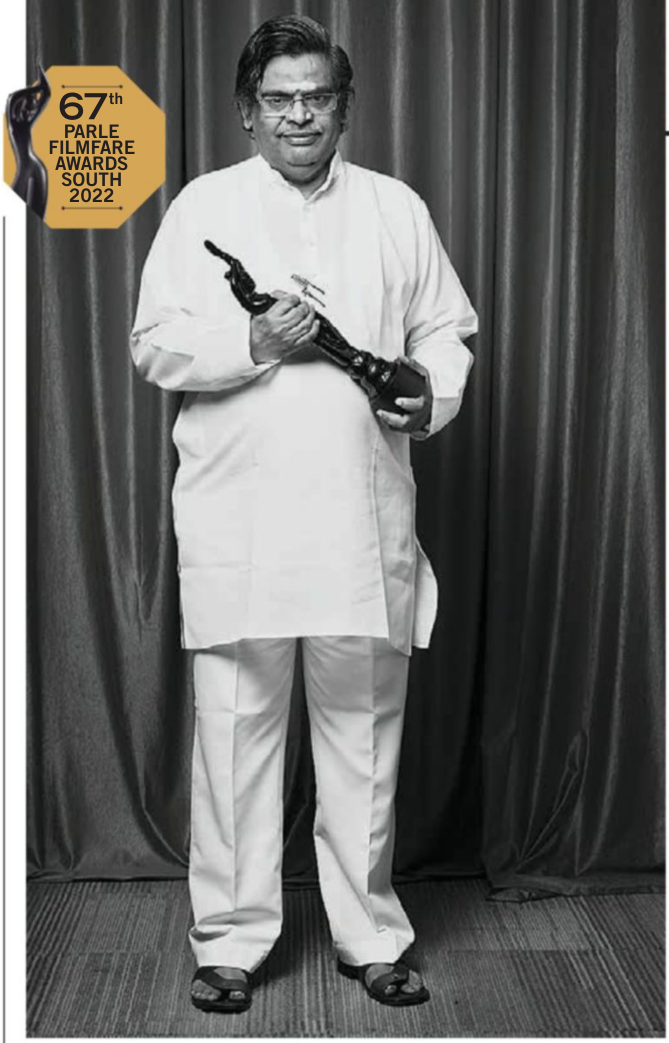
ANURADHA BHAT

DHEERA SAMMOHAGAARA (BICHHUGATTI)

It's a historical action film and tells the story of a brave warrior who takes on the evil king. The song encapsulates the story of how a brave woman falls in love with the warrior, bringing to fore his softer tendencies. Anuradha Bhat's voice does complete justice to the emotions captured in the lyrics.

Bichhugatti

Sharvari Wagh presents the award



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BEST LYRICS TELUGU

SIRIVENNELA SEETHARAMA SASTRY

LIFE OF RAM (JAANU)

Life of Ram introduces us to the character of Ram from this romance. Ram is a travel photographer and majority of his time is spent in jungles. The song is a paean to natural beauty as well by extension. The lyricist passed away last November and this was one of the last few songs he wrote.

Jaanu

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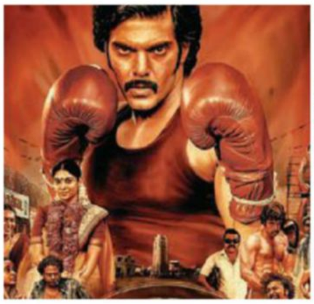
Bharti Vishnuwardhan and Aniruddh Jatkar do the honours

BEST LYRICS TAMIL

ARIVU

NEEYE OLI (SARPATTA PARAMBARAI)

The film revolves around a boxer who gets a chance at redemption. It's a training anthem of sorts where he's shown undergoing a harsh exercise regimen to get match fit. We see him transform from a dad bod to gladiator bod during the course or the song. It's an nspiring ditty which pushes you to find your best version.



Sarpatta Parambarai

Rockline Venkatesh hands over the award

BEST LYRICS MALAYALAM

RAFEEQ AHMED

ARIYATHARIYATHE (AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM)

The folksy song, which went viral upon its release, brings out the rivalry between the lead characters through its words. It showcases their emotions, juxtaposing their contrasting characters. And at the same time, it also hints that both are the same at core despite being different. It offers an amusing spin to the film's story and makes us ready for the things to come.

Ayyappanum Koshiyum

WARDS SOUTH 2022
co-powered by

Bharti Vishnuwardhan and Aniruddh Jatkar present the trophy

BEST LYRICS KANNADA

JAYANTH KAIKINI

TELADU MUGILE (ACT 1978)

The song acts as the theme song of the film. The film revolves around the plight of the common people. They lead their quiet existence, making do with what little they earn and finding contentment in that. And sadly it's their rights that are encroached upon the most. Shouldn't they get their due, the song asks. Don't they deserve to be treated with respect in their own country?

Act 1978

Ms Mangalambika, Managing Director Amrith Noni and Om Sree Marketing Solutions Private Limited, and Shalini Pandey hand over the trophy

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY TELUGU

MIROSLAW KUBA BROZEK

PUSHPA : THE RISE - PART 1

Pushpa is a film set around the smuggling of red sandalwood. A large chunk of the film is set in a forest and the fierce beauty of the wilds is captured well in the cinematography. Whether it's the rustic portions, the action sequences or the songs, the similarity of colour palette and the taut camera angles lend an air of singularity to it.

Pushpa : The Rise - Part 1

Dr Zaheer Pasha - Chairman & MD, Eminent Business Group and Meghana Gaonkar hand over the Black Lady

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY TAMIL

NIKETH BOMMIREDDY

SOORARAI POTTRU

The film is set both in rural areas and the corporate world. The rustic portions have a simple charm to them and add to the film's mystique. You wonder how a man belonging to a village background can ever start an airline. The later portions, where we see the dream taking shape, are shot realistically like a documentary and add another layer to the film.

Soorarai Pottru

V Nagendra Prasad presents the award

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY MALAYALAM

SHYJU KHALID

NAYATTU

The film depicts the trials and the tribulations faced by a trio of police personnel who have to go on the run following false accusations against them. The film is shot in rural areas and the cinematography captures the haunting beauty of the milieu as well as the thrill and chase of the deadly hide and seek which ensues between one set of policemen and others.

Nayattu

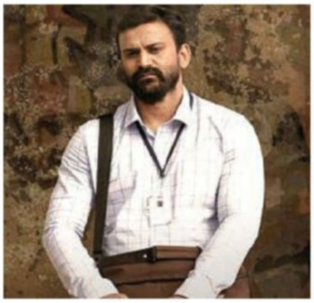
Pankaj Soni – Proprietor, PS Pankaj Soni Designer Studio and V Nagendra Prasad hand over the award

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY KANNADA

SHREESHA KUDUVALLI

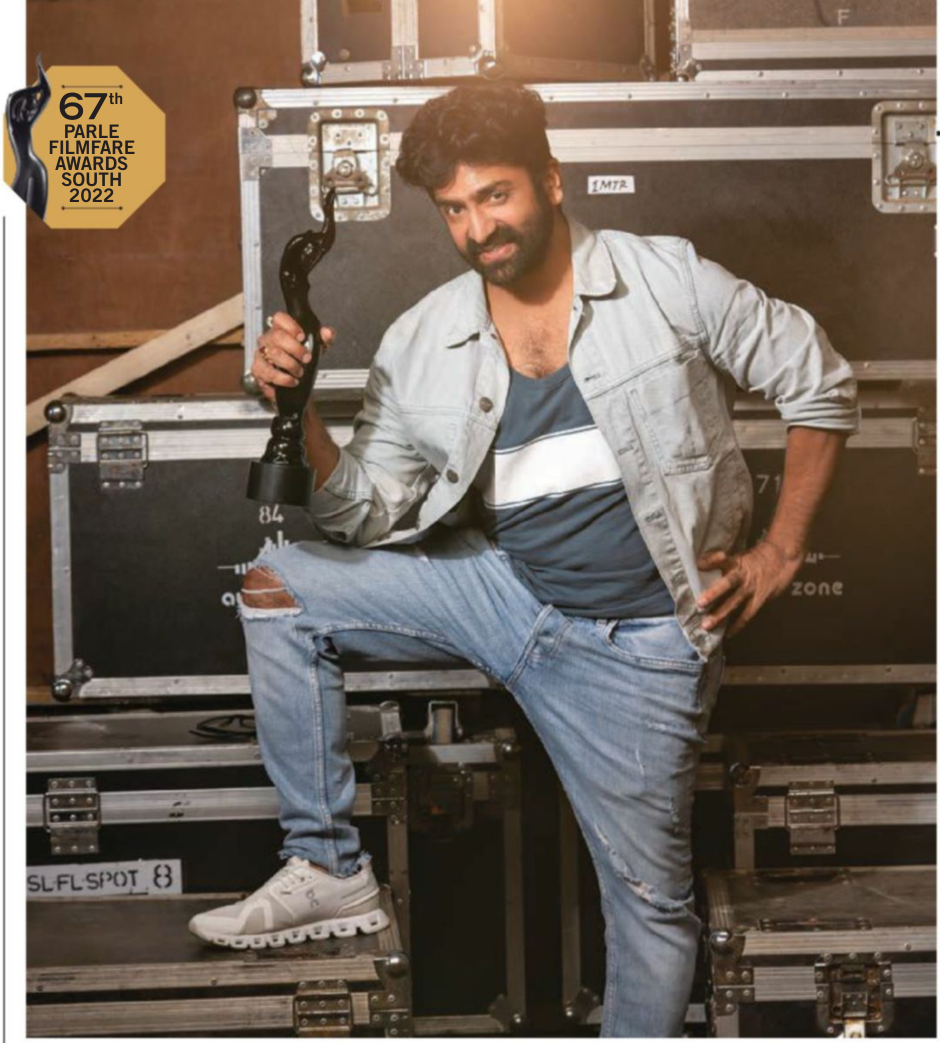
RATHNAN PRAPANCHA

The film revolves around the protagonist's journey of finding himself. The cinematography is in effect a minor character of sorts in the film as the camera follows the hero from one end of the country to the other as he learns truths about himself. It's a travel comedy and the camerawork lends a lyrical quality to it.



Rathnan Prapancha

Mr Prakash Shetty – Chairman Of MRG Group and Aniruddh Jatkar give away the trophy



BEST CHOREOGRAPHY TELUGU

SEKHAR MASTER

RAMULOO RAMULAA (ALA VAIKUNTHAPURRAMULOO)

It's an ensemble song featuring the entire cast. The focus of course is on Allu Arjun, who is given massy hook steps by the choreographer. His simple yet fun moves get copied by everyone at the party. Pooja Hegde and others come on the floor and later Tabu too is seen joining in. It's the perfect song for parties and large gatherings.

Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo

Mr Rajasekhar Seethamraju - Business Head, Kamar Film Factory and Nishvika Naidu hand over the award

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY TAMIL

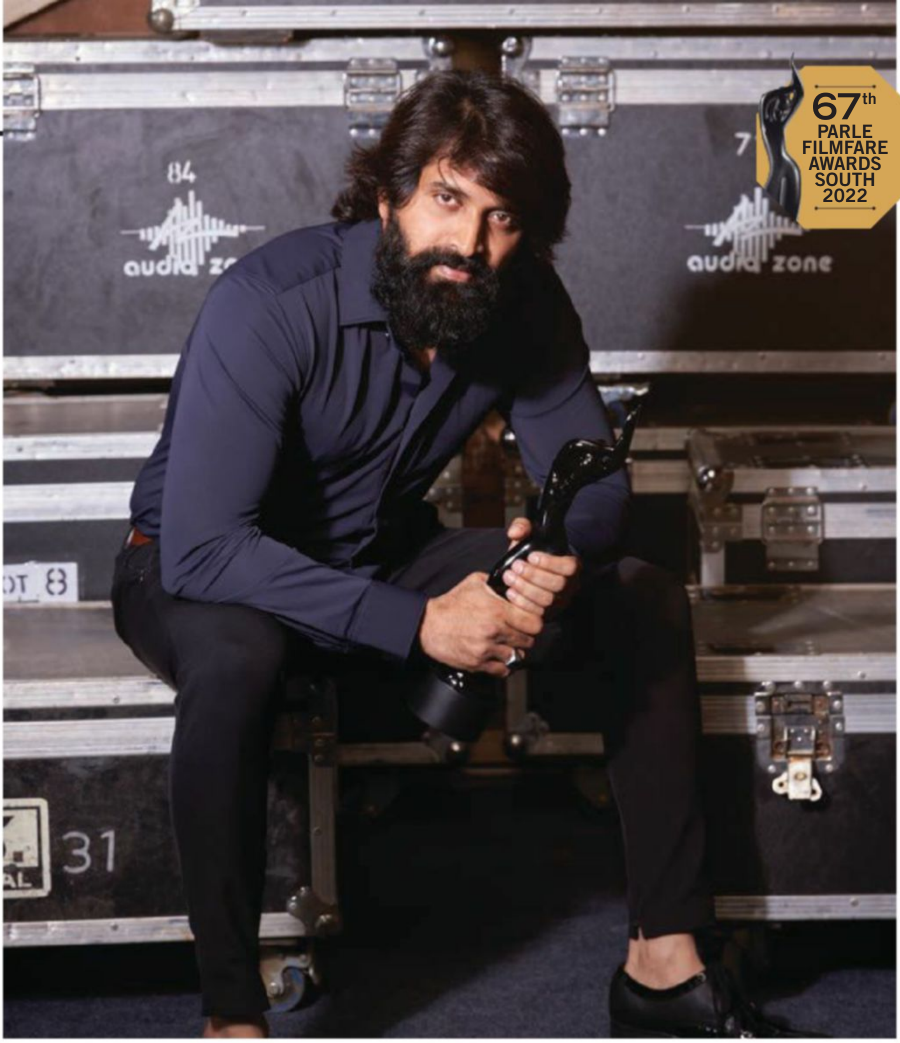
DINESH KUMAR

VAATHI COMING (MASTER)

The song is a study in letting go and dancing like nobody's watching. The peppy beats make you shake your legs and the simple, street-dance moments of the choreography make it easy for everyone to mimic the moves. But the mastery lies in making sure everyone, even the last man in the frame, is doing the same steps in sync with the hero.

Master

Ms Disha Salanke – Head - New Talent Division, Future TV presents the trophy



BEST CHOREOGRAPHY KANNADA

JANI MASTER

FEEL THE POWER (YUVARATHNAA)

The song is a fast paced dance number picturised on Puneeth Rajkumar. It infuses the star's charisma with some massy dance moves to make for a moving spectacle. The song is an ode to the energy of the youth and the choreography is totally in sync with the theme of the film, which is about students realising their potential for maximum good.

Yuvarathnaa

Veeramachanani Vijayalaxmi – Chairperson Of Chetna Group Of Institutions & Trusts and Nishvika Naidu do the honours

67th
PARLE
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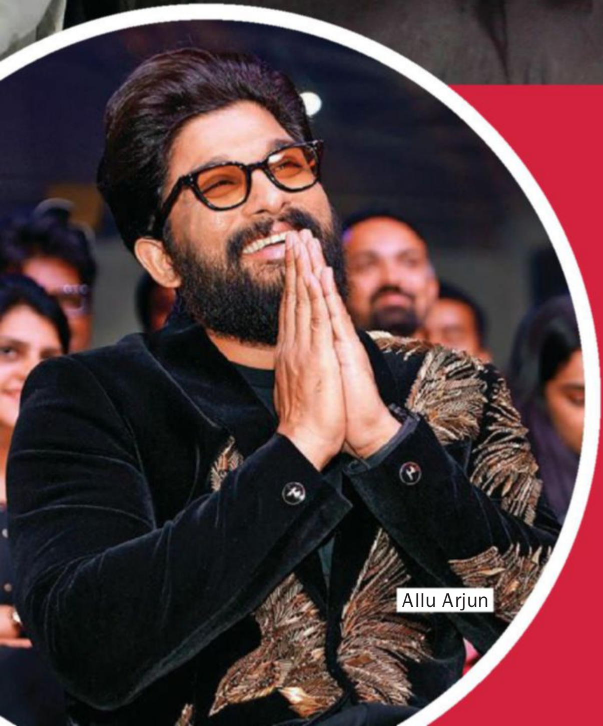
2022



Allu Arjun

NAMMA BENGALURU!

THE **67TH PARLE FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2022 WITH KAMAR FILM FACTORY** WERE HELD RECENTLY IN BANGALORE. **DEVESH SHARMA** CHRONICLES A FLY-ON-THE-WALL ACCOUNT OF THE SAME

Jyotika, Suriya and R Madhavan enjoying the proceedings

Allu Aravind receiving the LTA Award from his wife Allu Nirmala

Dhanya Ramkumar and Poornima Ramkumar receiving Puneeth Rajkumar's LTA Award at the hands of Mr Kamar of Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekar

Meghana Raj, wife of late Chiranjeevi Sarja, accepted his special award at the hands of Mr Kamar of Kamar Film Factory and Nagathihalli Chandrashekar

All roads led to the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Bangalore on October 9, 2022. The stars of four film industries, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu draped themselves in their sartorial best to raise a toast to the winners and nominees. We've traditionally held the award either at Chennai or Hyderabad. Bangalore was an unknown equation for us, so we were a bit apprehensive. But our fears were allayed by the stars, filmmakers, and technicians from not only Kannada but also from other industries as well. They made us feel at home at the new venue, and their enthusiastic response meant the start of a beautiful friendship with another location.

Sharvari Wagh

Krithi Shetty, Sai Pallavi and Aparna Balamurali are all smiles

Puneeth Rajkumar was one of the brightest stars of the Kannada industry. The actor was in his prime when we sadly lost him to cardiac arrest on October 29, 2021. He was fondly remembered not only by his Kannada colleagues but by friends from across the other industries as well. Dance Master **Jani,** who won the Best Choreography Award for the song *Feel the power,* from the Kannada film *Yuvarathnaa,* starring the 'Power Star' Puneeth Rajkumar himself opened up his phone and asked the cameras to zoom in on the photo of the late star, which he had clicked on the sets of the last film they did together. He even shared that he and **Sekhar Master,** who won the Best Choreography Award for the song *Ramuloo ramulaa* for the Telugu film *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo,* were coming from Hyderabad on the same flight and happened to notice they were carrying similar bags, which were gifted by Puneeth.The star was posthumously bestowed with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to cinema. His niece **Dhanya Ramkumar,** who was the winner for Best Debut (Female) for her movie *Ninna Sanihakke,* said, "Today, I dedicate this award to my granny, grandpa and Appumama. Today, I don't think Appu is not here as he continues to rule in our hearts." Well

Joju George, Jayasurya, wife Saritha and Sandeep Kishan look engrossed

Shehnaaz Gill

Sharvari Wagh, Aahana Kumra and Zahrah Khan greet each other

Dhananjaya greets Allu Arjun

Priyamani

Krithi Shetty

Tabu and Murali Sharma caught conversing

said. **Devi Sri Prasad,** who won the Black Lady for Best Music Album category for the Telugu hit *Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1,* dedicated his award to Puneeth and said that the late actor was a great music lover and the two of them would always discuss music whenever they met.

PUNEETH RAJKUMAR WAS POSTHUMOUSLY BESTOWED WITH THE FILMFARE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO CINEMA

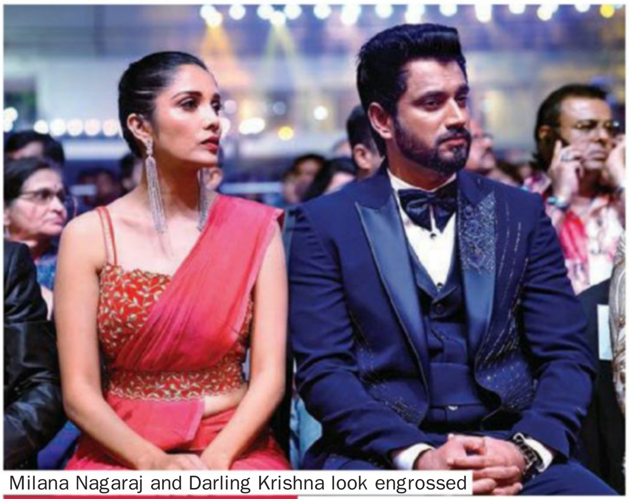
Our other LTA winner was the veteran producer **Allu Aravind.** He's one of the biggest producers in the Telugu industry and has been constantly giving box office hits since the '80s. He received the trophy at the hands of his wife, **Allu Nirmala,** "I'm truly happy today, not just for receiving this award, but this is the first time that my wife is praising me in front of the audience. So, indeed, this is a special award for me," he quipped. The veteran has made some Kannada films as well and has a long association with the Kannada industry. He called his long-standing friends, actress **Sumalatha** and actor and producer **Rockline Venkatesh,** up on stage to share the momentous occasion with him. He said that he was hesitant to receive the award at first, as he thought that it meant the end of the road for him. But his family convinced him to accept it as they felt it was a celebration of life. **Chiranjeevi Sarja** was a Kannada star whose life was cruelly cut short by a cardiac arrest. The actor was posthumously given a special award for his contribution to cinema, which was collected by his wife **Meghana Raj,** who's an actress in her own right. "It was Chiru's dream to get a Filmfare Award. He was nominated multiple times but could not get it. Today, it is a proud moment for me to receive this award on his behalf," she said.

Kannada actor Dhananjay, who turned producer with **Badava Rascal,** expressed his joy and pride when he went up to collect his trophy for the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) for his debut film as a producer. He mentioned the success of Kannada film *KGF* as the turning point for Kannada cinema and said the industry is all set to make a bigger impact pan-India. Dhananjay's joy got doubled as his co-star from the film, **Amrutha Iyengar,** won the Best Actress (Critics') Award for the same film.

Darling Krishna, who won the Best Actor (Critics') Award for the Kannada film *Love Mocktail,* was ecstatic that his wife **Milana Nagaraj** too won the Best Actress (Critics') Award for the same film. "My wife is my best critic, and vice versa, and it's a great coincidence that she and I won the same award for our film. It's indeed a memorable evening made more special by the twin awards," he commented. They do make a lovely couple, for sure.

There were celebrations galore for the Allu family as **Allu Arjun**, son of Allu Aravind, won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) for the blockbuster movie, *Pushpa: The Rise-Part 1*. The actor's entry into the compound was met with a thunderous response by the crowd,

Sudha Kongara, Jyotika and Suriya are amused



Milana Nagaraj and Darling Krishna look engrossed

Raj B Shetty and Vasuki Vaibhav are all smiles

DARLING KRISHNA, WHO WON THE BEST ACTOR (CRITICS') AWARD FOR THE KANNADA FILM *LOVE MOCKTAIL,* WAS ECSTATIC THAT HIS WIFE MILANA NAGARAJ TOO WON THE BEST ACTRESS (CRITICS') AWARD FOR THE SAME FILM

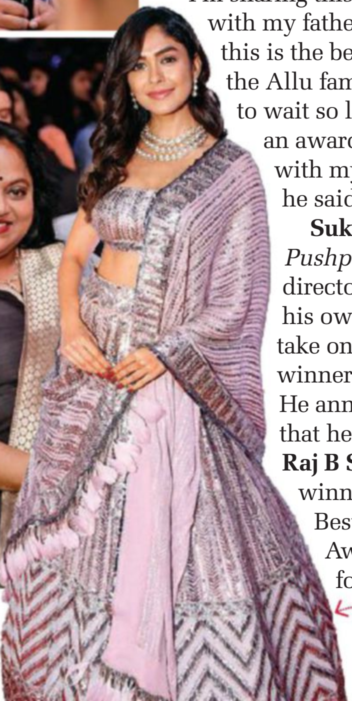
Meghana Raj, Poornima Ramkumar, Dhanya Ramkumar and Pannaga Bharana enjoy the show

Pooja Hegde looks enchanting

Nani and Sai Pallavi enjoying each other's company

Allu Arjun and Devi Sri Prasad are thrlled by the show

Sumalatha, Malashree and Saritha look amused


Mrinal Thakur

who couldn't keep calm. *Pushpa, Pushpa,* echoed from one wall to the next. The actor was glad that South Indian cinema was becoming pan-Indian and said this would benefit people from all the film industries in India. He was pleased by the fact that he was getting his award on a day his father had also won an award. "Today is a memorable day for me as I'm sharing this function with my father. In fact, this is the best day for the Allu family. I had to wait so long to get an award along with my father," he said. **Sukumar,** *Pushpa's* director, had his own unique take on the winner's speech. He announced that he wanted **Raj B Shetty,** winner of the Best Director Award for the Kannada film *Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana,* to be with him on stage. Shetty was clad in a simple shirt and a green *mundu* and Sukumar too wanted to dress up like that, but couldn't do so at the insistence of his wife. Raj B Shetty pointed out that men should always listen to their wives, and while he wasn't married, he too would have taken his wife's advice if she wanted him to wear something different. The South stars don't like to flash their sartorial style, we must say. The Best Actor (Critics') winner for the Telugu film *Shyam Singha Roy,* **Nani,** came dressed in a simple black on black attire as he was fasting for the Sabarimala pilgrimage. The Malayalam winner for the Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male) category (for *Nayattu*), **Joju George,** too, wore a white shirt with a simple white *mundu* Respecting the stage, he even left his slippers near the stairs when he walked up to the podium to collect his award.

Sai Pallavi created history of sorts by winning both Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) for the Telugu film *Love Story* and the Best Actress (Critics') Award as well for *Shyam Singha Roy.* "This is special for me. I actually didn't expect this. The reason that this has become possible is that I have worked with writers who have written amazing scripts and with directors who believe in strong female characters.

Brahmaji Rao and Priya Warrier engage in a conversation

Sukumar and his wife Thabitha engage in banter

Megha Shetty looks joyful

ANOTHER STAR WHO GOT THE MOST ADULATION FROM THE MASSES WAS SURIYA. THE CROWD WENT HOARSE SHOUTING ROLEX, ROLEX, WHICH WAS HIS NAME IN THE SUPER DUPER TAMIL HIT, *VIKRAM*

Dhee is all emotional winning the award

Allu Nirmala and Allu Aravind enjoying the show

Dev Mohan

Saniya Iyappan

Amrutha Iyengar

For *Love Story,* I want to thank **Shekar Kammula** and the entire team. And *Shyam Singha Roy...* well this is not my victory lap. The whole team has worked very hard for the film, and we all own this," she gushed.

Tabu, who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female) for the Telugu film *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* made the audience clap in unison when she said she'd definitely love to act in a Kannada film soon. **Murali Sharma,** who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male) for the same film, got highly emotional and was literally in tears while accepting the award. He thanked everyone from his co-stars, his parents, to his colleagues from the different industries. Another star who got the most adulation from the masses was **Suriya.** The crowd went hoarse shouting Rolex, Rolex, which was his name in the super duper Tamil hit, **Vikram.** It seems everyone wants to see a film revolving around Rolex in the future and the star made his pleasure evident while accepting the award for Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) for *Soorarai Pottru*. He said only time will tell if Rolex will be back. "I want to tell you when director **Lokesh Kanagraj** approached me for the film, I initially said no and later only accepted because of my respect for **Kamal Haasan.** I'd no idea that my cameo would become so popular," he commented.

His wife **Jyotika,** who along with him was the producer of the Tamil Best Film, *Jai Bhim*, remarked that the film helped change the rules of "heroism" in films. "For many, the hero is the one who dances well, sings well, fights well, and has fantastic dialogue delivery. However, *Jai Bhim's* director, **T. J. Gnanavel**, and even **Sudha Kongara** in *Soorarai Pottru,* have changed that in their respective films. With *Jai Bhim* in particular, everyone was apprehensive about how the audience would accept Suriya in such a character, but he bent all the rules of heroism and yet was represented as a popular hero. I see it as a way forward in the future," she commented. Sudha Kongara was shooting

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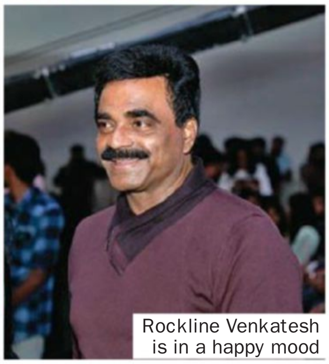
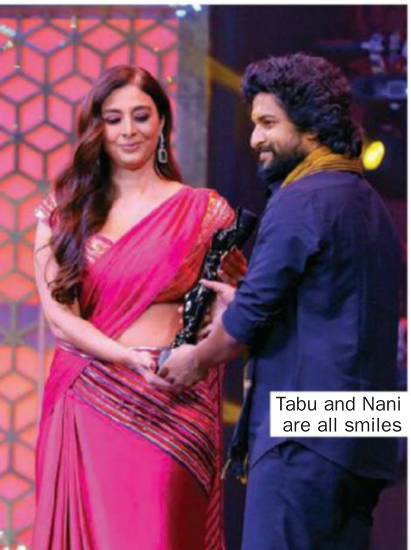
Team *Jai Bhim* enjoying their moment in the sun

Anirudh Jatkar and Bharathi Vishnuvardhan entering the venue



Rockline Venkatesh is in a happy mood

Joju George and and Kani Kusruti bonding together



Tabu and Nani are all smiles

elsewhere and made it to the awards in the nick of time. She was beaming from ear-to-ear when she received her Best Director Award for *Soorarai Pottru* and, apart from thanking her leading man Suriya, leading lady **Aparna Balamurali**, and her entire team in her speech, she also made a mention of **GR Gopinath,** the founder of Air Deccan, whose inspiring story served as the inspiration for the film.

Jayasurya, who won the Best Actor (Critics') Award for the Malayalam film *Vellam,* was happy to receive his third Black Lady. "Thank you so much, Filmfare for this beautiful Black Lady for the third time. This award is dedicated to my entire team of *Vellam.* Every recognition is an inspiration to do better work and I hope I continue to make my audience proud of me in future too," said he. **Nimisha Sajayan,** who won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) for *The Great Indian Kitchen,* said she was happy she was getting the award for such an important film that has struck such a powerful blow against patriarchy. **Kani Kusruti,** who won the Best Actress (Critics') Award for the Malayalam film *Biriyaani,* which talked about women's empowerment, too agreed with the sentiment and said she was apprehensive at first about doing such a bold role and she was glad it was received so well by the audience.

The award ceremony was hosted by **Diganth** and **Ramesh Aravind,** who engaged the audience with fun banter and made sure the proceedings rolled out smoothly. All in all, it was an entertaining evening, full of glamour, glitz, smiles and laughter. All those who attended it went home with happy memories... ■

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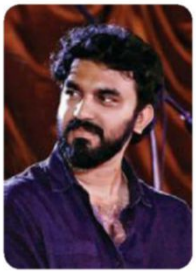
KAILAS MENON

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INDU NAGARAJ

RAMYA VAASISHT

BHAVANI PRAKASH

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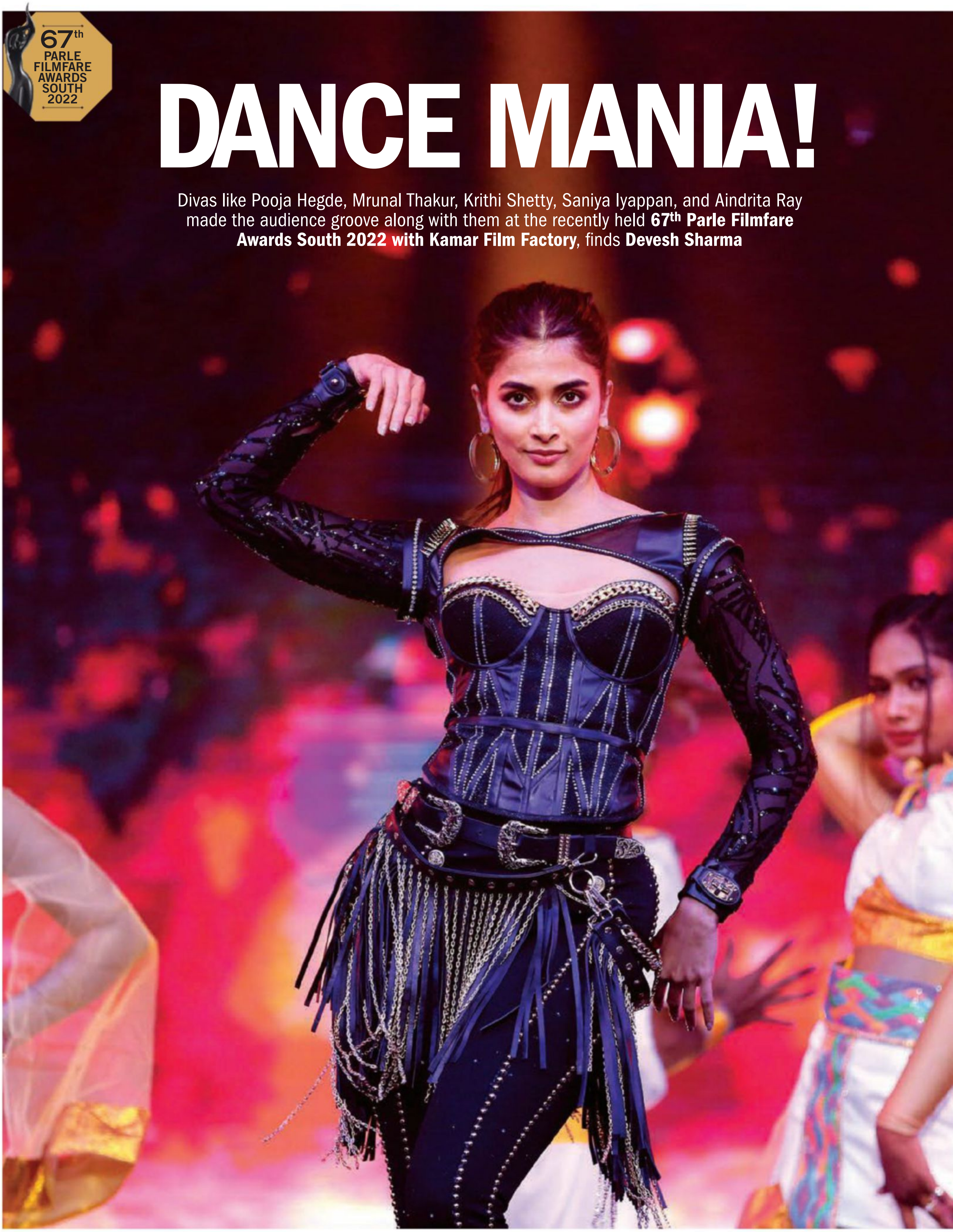
2022

DANCE MANIA!

Divas like Pooja Hegde, Mrunal Thakur, Krithi Shetty, Saniya Iyappan, and Aindrita Ray made the audience groove along with them at the recently held **67th Parle Filmfare Awards South 2022 with Kamar Film Factory**, finds **Devesh Sharma**



All the right moves

POOJA HEGDE

The vivacious actress had the crowd shouting encore as she had them hooked with her dance moves to some of the popular hits like *Gudilo badilo* (*DJ: Duvvada Jagannadham*), *Andha arabi kadaloram* (*Bombay*), *ButtaBomma* (*Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo*), *So baby* (*Doctor*) and many more.

High on energy

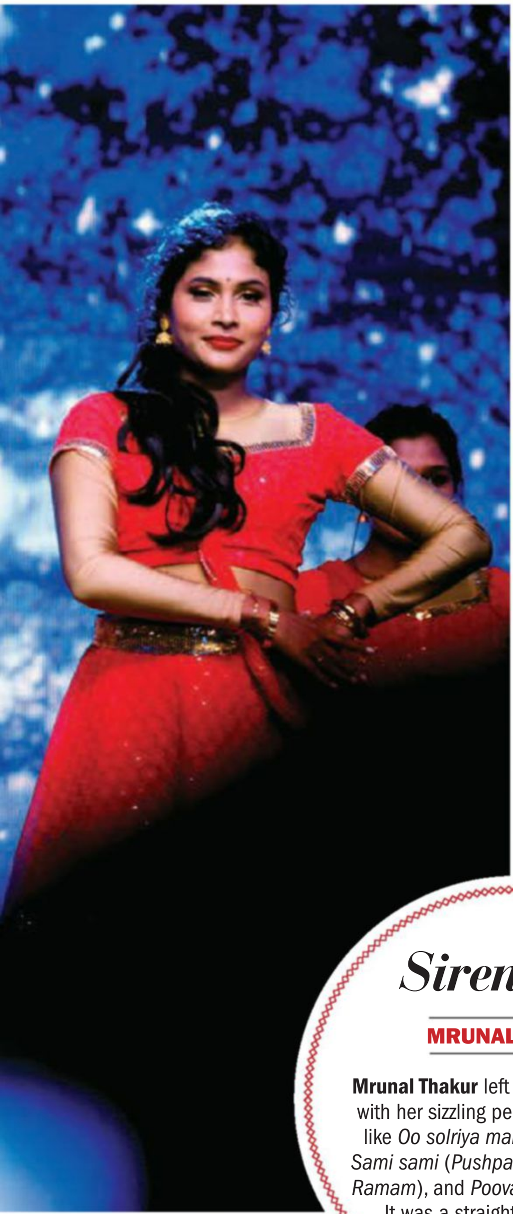
AINDRITA RAY

Aindrita Ray grooved to hits like *Kaanadanthe maayavadanu* (*Anna Bond*), *Yenaithu* (*Chakravyuha*), *Abhimanigale* and *C/o Doddmane* (*Doddmane Hudga*) and had the assembly charmed by her perfect moves.

Pump up the jam

KRITHI SHETTY

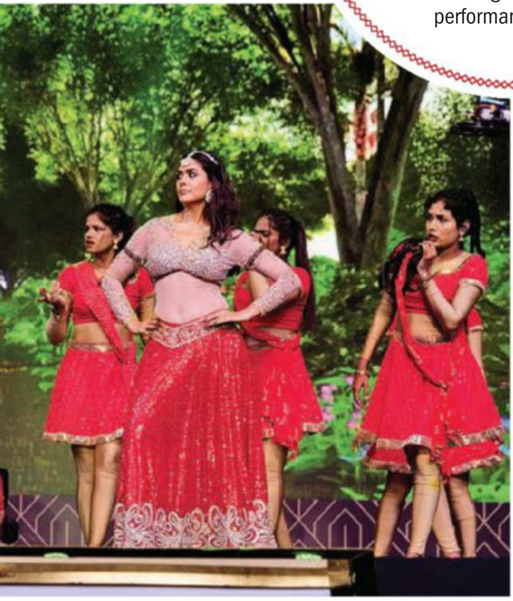
The pretty actress danced to songs like *Kudukku* (*Love Action Drama*), *Baby dance floor ready* (*Roberrt*), *Whistle song* (*The Warriorr*), *Dippam dappam* (*Kaathuvaakula Rendu Kaadhal*) and more and had the audience asking for more.



Siren song

MRUNAL THAKUR

Mrunal Thakur left the audience in awe with her sizzling performance on songs like *Oo solriya mama* (*Pushpa Tamil*), *Sami sami* (*Pushpa*), *Kannil kannil* (*Sita Ramam*), and *Poovai poovai* (*Dookudu*). It was a straight-from-the-heart-performance alright.



Going with the rhythm

SANIYA IYAPPAN

Saniya Iyappan made the audience sit up and take notice of her moves in songs like *Two two* (*Kaathuvaakula Rendu Kaadhal*), *Pataki poriyo* (*Kotigobba 3*), *Barbie girl* (*Mirchi*), and *Full kick* (*Khiladi*).

D/code

A Times Group Initiative

SOUTH EDITION 2022

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An initiative by Home and Design Trends, D/code, India's first curated luxury lifestyle show, travelled to Bengaluru. We waited almost three years for Bengaluru to open its doors to us, and as expected, the Garden City was magical, welcoming and absolutely inspiring. D/code South Edition 2022 powered by hansgrohe, the satellite version of our flagship IP, was curated by Shernavaz Bharucha. For two days, we transformed the halls of Chamara Vajra, Bengaluru, into an exciting design hub. From brands and indie labels to artists, architects, interior designers and homeowners, the industry came together to celebrate and support. Highlights included stimulating power talks, panel discussions, networking brunches and more.

Here's a glimpse.

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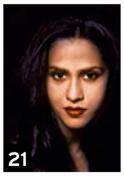
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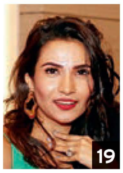
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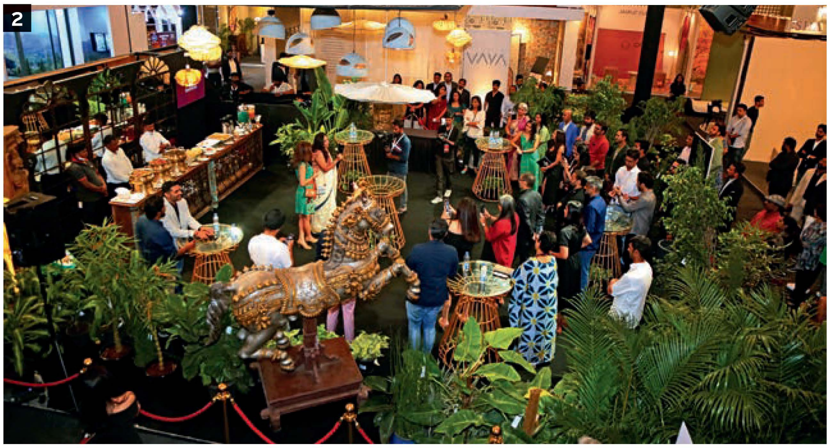
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1. Canna Patel and Iesha Parekh Shellugar **2.** VIP Lounge designed by Shernavaz Bharucha, in collaboration with The Purple Turtles, Oorjaa and greenery by Make My Garden **3.** Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia and Shernavaz Bharucha **4.** Chetana and Anil Kumble **5.** Naresh Narasimhan, Shernavaz Bharucha, Vivek Gupta and Joya Nandurdikar **6.** Khusbhoo Khandelwal **7.** Kunal Khandelwal **8.** Kalpak Shah, Torun Mathias, Farah Ahmed, Dhaval Shellugar, Alok Saraf and Sanchit Arora **9.** Raghunandanan Gururaj, Nagendra Ramachandra, Sachin Shetty, Aditi Pai, Akshay Heranjal, Swapnil Valvatkar and Sujith Nair **10.** Vivek Gupta, Abhay Jaipuria, Akshay Jaipuria and Swanzal Kak Kapoor **11.** Siddhant Shivkumar of hansgrohe and Kirti Dodeja **12.** Pashmin Shah and Managing Editor Avril Noel Dsouza **13.** Abhijeet Sonar of hansgrohe, Jasem Pirani, Priyanka Mehra and Piyush Mehra at the Trends Excellence Awards ceremony **14.** Rahul Kadri and Vaishali Mangalvedhekar at the Trends Excellence Awards ceremony **15.** Bijoy Ramachandran, Dhaval Shellugar, Farah Ahmed and Sunitha Kondur at the Trends Excellence Awards ceremony **16.** Amitha Madan, Alan Abraham, Canna Patel and Hiren Patel **17.** Shobhan Kothari **18.** Shantanu Garg **19.** Farah Agarwal **20.** Tejal Mathur **21.** Smitha Zachariah **22.** Manish Dikshit and Hiren Patel **23.** Roberto Pauletto, Miguel Taberner, Roopesh Gupta, Pallavi Shetty, Ajay Patil, Zubin Master, Supraja Rao, Kiran Shetty and Alice Vitali **24.** Amit Khanolkar, Proniti Chadda, Vishakha Chowdhry, Muninder Chowdhry, Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia and Shilpa Jain Balvally **25.** Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia and Maithili Raut at the Trends Excellence Awards ceremony

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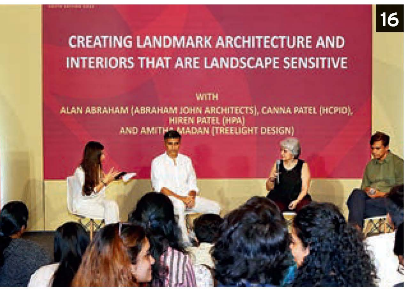
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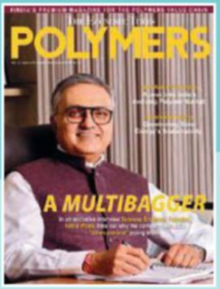

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your say

reader's reviews, box-office, celebrity column & more

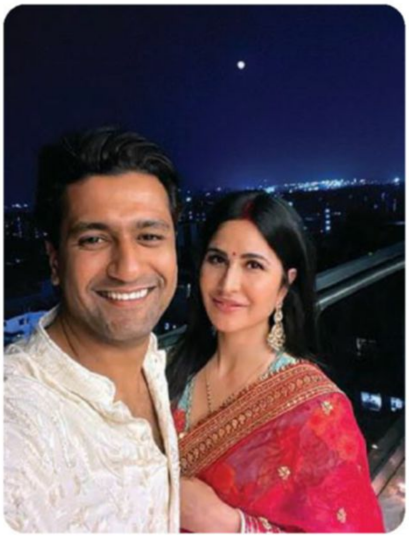
INSTA LIKE

Medley of moments

Check out the best Instagram posts of the stars from recent times

@iamsrk: It's so lovely to live in front of the sea..... the sea of love that spreads all around me on my birthday.... thank u. Grateful for making me feel so special.... & happy.
Fanzoned! King Khan really knows how to sway the crowd as you can gaze from the frenzy.

@anushkasharma: The world seems brighter, exciting, more fun and overall just much much💗💗 better in places as beautiful as these or even when cooped up in a hotel bio-bubble with this person ❤️ #MissingHubby too much post
King Kohli luxuriating with his queen under the sun. Don't they make for a pretty picture?



@katrinakaif:
पहला
#KarvaChauth ✨
Karva Chauth goals! The couple which fasts together, stays together.

@sonamkapoor: In the spirit of the force that has breathed new meaning into our lives... In the spirit of Hanuman and Bheem who embody immense courage and strength... In the spirit of all that is sacred, life-giving and eternally ours, we seek blessings for our son, Vayu Kapoor Ahuja.
Sonam Kapoor, Anand Ahuja and Vayu are giving us major family goals.

@shahidkapoor: Here's to #sundayrides even when the roads aren't this pretty. #bikerboy for life. 🏍
Doesn't Shahid Kapoor look dishy in his biker boy avatar? All those who agree, raise their hands.

Readers send in their feedback *pg 118*
Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders *pg 120*

FILMFARE
IT HAPPENED WON NIGHT

IN THE MAIL

READERS WRITE AND BITE BACK... WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION

Three to tango: Ranveer Singh, Kriti Sanon and Vicky Kaushal

1st Prize ₹1500

CANDID VIGNETTES

I love reading about the candid interactions between celebrities in your last issue (October). Especially the cute moments between couples, whether it's Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal, or Vidya Balan and Siddharth Roy Kapur. My favourite, of course, was the sweetest of all, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, because of how authentic and adorable it was. The candid moments between them were such a delight to read about. And I truly enjoyed the whole segment that captured these memories.

Asif Sheikh, Faridabad

2st Prize ₹1000

TROPHY PARADE

I was closely following the awards on both social media and television. Watching them over dinner has been a tradition in my family and this year was no different! I always remember to read the awards issue as well, to follow up on anything I've missed and get a sneak peak into all the behind-the-scenes moments. Your last issue (October) truly captured the wonderful moments of this year's Filmfare Awards. I loved the fact that Vidya Balan won yet anoter award. She's a true genius when it comes to acting.

Noel Lobo, Panjim

Queen Bee: Vidya Balan

Chatterbox: Ranveer Singh having a banter with the stars

AWARDS AHOY!

I always enjoy the awards issue the most, the fashion, the photographs, the insights into the event. It's the perfect aftermovie, post-watching the show. I especially enjoyed your last issue (October) because it was so well designed and an enjoyable read.

Devika Pandit, Indore

STARS SHINE BRIGHT

I loved the article titled, *Starry, Starry Nights,* in your last issue (October). My favourite was the bit where they talked about Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone's adorable moment during the awards. I watched it on screen, and reading about it too was just so sweet. Especially the part where he talks about how people made fun of him and Vicky for marrying out of their league. They're both such loving husbands and deserve all the good things.

Raj Malhotra, Delhi

KUDOS SUBHASH GHAI

I was so glad see Subhash Ghai being bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He's my inspiration, since I hope to enter the film industry and reading the snippet in your lasti ssue (October) was so heart-warming.

Mohua Mishra, Ranchi

Veteran ace: Subhash Ghai

SHERSHAAH'S GLORY

No one deserved the Best Film Award as much as *Shershaah.* It is hands-down one of the most well-made films of the year. It has great writing, amazing acting, and an inspiring storyline. I really missed Sidharth Malhotra at the Filmfare Awards, however, and wished that he could be there as well alongside the rest of the team. I enjoyed the show's recap that was precisely captured in your last issue (October).

Rahul Bisht, Mathura

SHOWSTOPPERS!

I absolutely loved the performances section, as well as the show report in your last issue (October). I missed watching the show on television, and the pictures, along with the small snippets, gave me a pretty wholesome insight into the show. I really wish I could've watched it, but I'm really glad that I at least managed to get a glimpse of all the performances and wow moments.

Shriya Verghese, Coimbatore

Top of the world: Vicky Kaushal

VICKY'S THE BEST

I just loved Vicky Kaushal in *Sardar Udham.* I've always been a fan. I was so glad to read in your last issue that he won the Best Actor (Critics') Award despite tough competition from actors such as Vikrant Massey, Pratik Gandhi, and Abhishek Bachchan, who were outstanding in their roles. He truly left his mark.

Saakshi Goel, Raipur

GIRLS RULE

The girls definitely rocked the stage at the Filmfare Awards. Both Disha Patani and Kiara Advani slayed their performances, right from the choreography to the costumes. My favourite moment was Kiara's transition from the *ghagra* to pants; it was so effortless. I loved reading the recap of both their dances in last month's issue (October) because that was definitely the highlight for me.

Rahul Mahajan, Mangalore

Rocking the crowd: Ranveer Singh

Ready to shine: Kiara Advani

BTS GALORE

I loved the behind the scenes segment in your last month's issue (October), which captured the fun behind-the-scenes moments of the awards. The candid smiling moments of all the winners were beautifully captured, and the layout was a winner too. I just scrolled through the pages to get an insight into the winners and see some heartwarming moments captured. This segment definitely stood out.

Eshaan Khatib, Secunderabad

I HEART VARUN

I'm the biggest fan of Varun Dhawan and have religiously followed his work since *Student Of The Year* (2012). His performance at the Filmfare Awards was brilliant, and I couldn't stop myself from grooving to the songs, which were some of my favourite Varun Dhawan tracks. I loved the collage of his pictures in your last issue (October). It was definitely my favourite moment captured in print.

Ananya Bhat, Mumbai

FASHION STATIONS

I love fashion and Filmfare Awards become a mecca for fashion every year. The glamfare segment in your last issue (October) carried a beautiful commentary on the sartorial elegance displayed by the stars. Some of my favourites definitely include Katrina Kaif, Parineeti Chopra, and Amyra Dastur.

Pearl Ajmera, Aurangabad

Just one Point

Fashionista: Parineeti Chopra

This time the Filmfare Red Carpet saw such unique choices, and I enjoyed reading about them in the glmfare segment. The androgynous looks of Parineeti Chopra and Mrunal Thakur were the best in my book.

Sara Bennet, Meerut

Kriti Sanon definitely deserved to be the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female). Not only did she act brilliantly in *Mimi* but she also managed to shed light on an important topic.

Arjun Raina, Jaipur

I loved the show report segment in your last issue (October). It gave me an overview of the entire event, and I didn't feel like I missed anything, even for a second.

Karishma Jammwal (Panipat)

The candid shots were a fun segment to add to the award issue.

Tushar Kala (Amritsar)

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Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire

Rakshabandhan: Just didn't gel

Is Indian cinema now becoming truly global?

Karan Nangia, Gurgaon

Yes indeed. These days it can be termed "global," as some of the films from our South have taken the world by surprise. The last few of our Hindi movies, unfortunately, right from *Raksha Bandhan*, *Ram Setu, Laal Singh Chaddha* to *Shamshera, Dhakaad, Radhe Shyam and Samrat Prithviraj,* etc., have failed miserably at the boxoffice globally. Whereas South films like *Pushpa, RRR, Kantara,* etc. have created records and delighted a global audience. However, being a positive thinker, I hope and pray that things will change. And our own Hindi cinema gets back its lost glory soon. The sooner the better, Jai Hind.

What is the difference between the present generation of politicians and those of yore?

Dr. C. Janardhan Singh, Hyderabad

What is the difference? Do you want me to go from bad to worse? Jokes aside, there's no difference, sir; politicians will always remain politicians. Some people may say that yesterday's politicians were learning and experiencing democracy. Today it has taken the shape of an autocracy. So the less said, the better.

What are your tips to make politics a noble profession in India?

Dr. Devki Yadav, Ratlam

You've asked a Herculean question. And you've been overly enthusiastic. We could stop corruption by electing the right kind of people who are capable, able, and respectable. And by electing candidates who keep the best interests of the country in mind instead of their own bank balances and that of their masters. However, this seems to be a strong and bold task to achieve anything like that. So...

I heard Malala is starting a film production company; do you have any advice for her?

Rajesh K. Ranga, New Delhi

Film business, production, or direction is not everyone's cup of tea. While wishing Malala all the success in whatever field she goes into, I hope and pray that Malala keeps her *"hosh"* intact and will not do anything in *"josh".*

Which energy is needed in our country: hydropower, thermal power, nuclear power, solar power, or love power?

Syed Nisar Mehdi, Hyderabad

I've heard and experienced that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Have you ever heard about Operation Lotus?

R. Ramakrishnan, via email

Who hasn't heard of it? Or suffered it. The manpower, money power, gunpower, and goon power of a particular party are infamous or famous for breaking, making, and selling legitimate government and legislators. This is supposed to be "Operation Lotus," and another name could be "Operation

Mr Perfect: Aamir Khan

1st Prize

There was a trend in your time when the heroine used to come on the set with her mother, and her mother used to decide everything. What about heroes?

Tulsi Tankha, Ratlam

Men never needed to be chaperoned then. The same's the case now. However, one last point for our heroes: films are today not decided on the basis of who the heroine is but who her mother is—how cooperative, understanding, and forgiving she is.

2nd Prize

What is the difference between freedom and independence?

Shivani Yadav, Udaipur

Independence is choosing your lifestyle or life partner on your own, and freedom is trying to maintain your choices after marriage, and hoping that your life partner doesn't interfere much with them. Real freedom lies in both partners giving each other the space to be independent.

Loot." Given the political kidnapping for ransom and what not...

What is the best way to fight depression in this post-COVID era?

Karan Nangia, Gurgaon

Depression has always been a serious and sensitive situation. Talking about your problem with your loved ones, friends, or whomever you're comfortable with is the first step towards combating it. Talking is relieving and comforting. It definitely helps; otherwise, one should take medical and professional advice at the earliest possible time.

How many countries have you toured in the world?

Syed Nisar Mehdi, Hyderabad

You're asking this question to a globetrotter in the true sense. It would be easier to have an answer when someone asks me which are the countries or places I've not visited so far – like Alaska, Siberia, and Antarctica, or even Timbuktu for that matter.

What is your opinion of Aamir Khan as an actor and human being?

Neha Yadav, Udaipur

Generally speaking, a person is remembered or known by his last work. Aamir Khan's *Laal Singh Chaddha,* and before that *Thugs Of Hindostan* have not created any impact,unfortunately. However, Aamir seems to be a good human being despite remaining married on a selective basis. Overall, his hit to flop ratio is envious indeed. We heard that recently his mother had a heart ailment. We pray for her speedy recovery. Sending him healing and strength.

What you enjoyed the most: puppet shows, magic shows, *nautanki,* or circus?

Tulsi Tankha, Ratlam

Political *tamasha,* that's the best entertainment.

(Feature co-ordinated by DEVESH SHARMA)

Please note: The column doesn't reflect Shatrughan Sinha's political or personal views. His answers are given in jest and humour.

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YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO: Shatrughan Sinha, who insists his answers do not reflect his political and social views.

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South side story

Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1

Jai Bhim

Ayyappanum Koshiyum

Act 1978

That the South films have matched ahead of their Hindi counterparts is a foregone conclusion by now. Our South Awards, which were held at Bangalore this year, are a shining example of that. Look at some of the films which did well at the awards.

Jai Bhim, winner of the Best Film Award in Tamil, talked about the rights of the downtrodden. It was based on a true case fought by justice K Chandru. The film brought to light the harassment and bias faced by lower caste people even today. It brought forth the fact prejudices haven't faded with time and the government machinery too has a callous attitude towards such practices. To make such a film with a mass hero Suriya was a brave act and the makers gained hugely by the move as it proved to be both a critical and commercial hit. Suriya won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for his role in *Soorarai Pottru,* which was a film based on the life of Air Deccan founder GR Gopinath. What a wonderful film it was and both Suriya and Sudha Kongara, who won the Best Director Award, were deserving winners.

Best Film Malayalam, *Ayyappanum Koshiyum,* showed us how destruction is ensured when ego dictates your actions – that's the lesson of the film. It's only when the film's two leads let go of their egos that a semblance of normalcy gets restored in their lives. Biju Menon played a troubled policeman in the film and won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for his towering performance. Nimisha Sajayan won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) trophy for her true to life performance in the Malayalam film, *The Great Indian Kitchen,* which should be seen by everyone to understand what patriarchy is all about.

Kannada Best Film Award winner, *Act 1978,* too talked about how the problems of the common man are often brushed aside by the very machinery which was formed to serve it. So to wake it up, sometimes making a big enough noise becomes a necessity. It was a hard-hitting film saying all the right things and Yagna Shetty too took home the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) Award for her role of a young, pregnant widow, who takes to crime to fight for her rights.

Telugu Best Film Award winner, *Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1,* was an out and out commercial entertainer revolving around the smuggling of red sandalwood. The film revolves around Allu Arjun's character, Pushpa and tells us about his transformation from being a common labourer to a smuggling kingpin. The actor was the winner of Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for his high on swag performance.

Let's hope the Hindi filmmakers wake-up and start working on original stories and concepts soon, instead of focussing on the same tired storylines...

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